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Garchitorena told me to quit–Badoy

SULTAN Bolkiah welcomes President Macapagal to his palace in Brunei, site of this year's Asean summit. Behind her is Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II.
AP

GMA hits ground running in Brunei

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she would work for stronger anti-terrorism measures, including multilateral training exercises, within the Association of Southeast Nations at its summit in Brunei.

Ms Macapagal hit the ground running upon her arrival at 3:30 p.m., spending just 10 minutes at the inauguration of a new office of Air Philippines and rushing to Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah's palace for a 15-minute meeting with him.

She only had 40 minutes to freshen up at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, where other Asean heads of state are billeted, before her 20-minute bilateral meetings with her counterparts from Cambodia, Laos and Burma.

After her last bilateral meeting ended at 6:50 p.m., Ms Macapagal only had 20 minutes to go to the International Convention Center for the two-hour working dinner hosted by Bolkiah for the Asean leaders.

Ms Macapagal earlier told reporters that during the dinner, she would offer to host multilateral antiterrorism exercises among Asean countries.

"The Philippines would like to

GMA/ A20

13 leaders to be flown out in case of attack

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—Policemen and soldiers on Sunday went on alert for threats of anthrax and other terror attacks as leaders from Southeast Asia as well as China, Japan and South Korea began arriving for an annual summit.

Plans were ready for an emergency air evacuation of the leaders in the event of a crisis.

The global pall cast by the Sept 11 terrorist attacks in the United States looked certain to overshadow economic issues that normally dominate the summit between the 10 Southeast Asian nations and their key partners in northeast

13 LEADERS/ A21

Sandigan chief denies pressure on justice in Estrada trial

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL, VOLT CONTRERAS AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE ANTI-GRAFT court hearing the plunder case against deposed President. Joseph Estrada is a house divided.

Sandiganbayan Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. yesterday said that Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena "pressured" him into resigning last month during an "unusual" meeting.

The announcement came on the eve of the start of the trial on the plunder charge against Estrada.

But Garchitorena denied pressuring Badoy.

Whatever prompted Badoy to make the accusation, he said, "may have come from others, not from me.".

But at a press conference at the St. Michael the Archangel Chapel in Fort Bonifacio, Badoy said: "Yes. I confirm that Presiding Justice Garchitorena is pressuring me to resign as chair of the third division."

Badoy said Garchitorena had also tried to enlist the support of the two other justices of the Sandiganbayan's third division.

The cause-oriented group Plunder Watch claimed that Badoy was the target of a demolition job, supposedly orchestrated by the opposition, in a "desperate effort" to have the plunder case against Estrada dismissed.

"(Defense lawyers) are now centering their attack on Badoy since they feel that he is the strongest link in Estrada's plunder case," Plunder Watch convenor Dr. Carolina Araullo told the INQUIRER.

"He has shown that he will not crack under pressure, that he is up to the task, so they want him out," she said.

Badoy, chair of the third division handling the plunder case against Estrada, refused to comment on the possible motives of Garchitorena.

"I cannot read the motivations, the heart and mind of Justice Garchitorena but I told you the facts," he said.

But Badoy said that if he resigned, Garchitorena, the most senior justice, would have a "first crack" at the chairmanship of the third division.

"It would have been nice if he confronted me first before going to the media," Garchitorena told the INQUIRER on the phone from Davao City, where the first division is hearing a case this whole week.

GARCHITORENA/ A20

BADOY: I cannot read the motivations, heart and mind (of Garchitorena).
JESS YUSON

Nat'l summit on economy should put RP back on track

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

THE NATIONAL economic summit, which the Macapagal administration has convened for Nov. 26, is a tour de force from the coup plot rumors that have swept and unsettled the nation during the past few weeks.

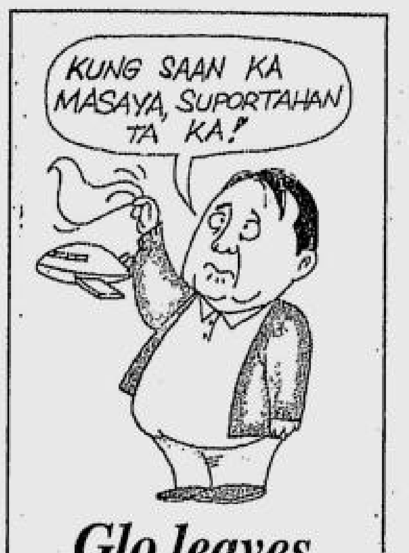
Although I suspect President Macapagal-Arroyo has not fully grasped the economic and political implications of the summit, from my end, I can see it as an opportunity to recompose the multisectoral coalition that carried her to the presidency into a new alliance galvanized by the issue of economic reconstruction.

The old coalition, driven by the widespread demand for the resignation of deposed President Joseph Estrada, has dissolved following the installation of President Macapagal and the emergence of conflicting claims by many members of the People Power II coalition to share power or the booty of victory with her.

The summit is an attempt to reconvene labor and business groups, as well as the clamorous civil society non-government organizations to help draft a national economic agenda made imperative by the global economic slowdown in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

This time, the old coalition can be infused with a new mobilizing issue—economic reconstruction—replacing Estrada's resignation as the galvanizing issue of People

NAT'L SUMMIT/ A21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Glo leaves Mike behind in Manila

BY CARLITO PABLO

THIS time, the President really did leave the First Gentleman—behind in Manila, that is.

For the first time since she started her foreign

GLO/ A20

Abu Sayyaf now holding Italian missionary

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—Kidnapped Italian missionary Giuseppe Pierantoni is now in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, the chief of the military's Southern Command said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said the military had received a report that the priest was sighted on Saturday in Langil island, off Tuburan town in Basilan.

Cimatu said the sighting confirmed earlier reports that Pierantoni, popularly known by his parishioners as Father Beppe, had been turned over by his original captors to the Abu Sayyaf.

The bandit group, however, is within sight of its military pursuers.

"The military is within seeing distance of them," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said in a television interview yesterday.

Golez expressed confidence the group would soon be crushed, saying the bandits were now so desperate they were abandoning their firearms to escape.

"They are severely weakened . . . (in) disarray, disorganized, running for their lives, otherwise they would not leave their weapons," Golez said, adding that the Abu Sayyaf suffered 50 casualties in the past month and lost 50 firearms.

He said the military was getting "the right formula, the right mix of weapons and units," and a new leadership in hunting the Abu Sayyaf, which launched its latest kidnapping spree in May.

The Abu Sayyaf is also holding nine Filipino and two American hostages.

Police and military authorities in Western Mindanao earlier said the Pentagon gang abducted Pierantoni from his convent in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur, on Oct. 17. The group is composed of rogue members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

But two Pentagon officials denied any involvement in the abduction, saying another group was responsible.

"We do not kidnap priests," said Faizal Marohombsalik, a Pentagon leader based in Central Mindanao.

Norhan Alam, another Pentagon leader, said it was the Abu Sayyaf who grabbed the priest in the first place.

Cimatu said he ordered government troops to conduct a search operation in Laong Moali, which resulted in a heavy firefight yester-

ABU/ A21

Luzon blackout: Jellyfish, not plotters, did it

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO
CHRISTINE GAYLICAN,
LUIGE DEL ROSARIO
AND CARLITO PABLO

JELLYFISH, not coup plotters, appeared to have done it again.

The National Power Corp. yesterday told the Philippine National Police that the 1,200-megawatt Sual power plant in Pangasinan broke down "possibly because of jelly fish or squid," according to deputy director for police community relations Thompson Lantion.

The power outage that hit Luzon at about 4:45 p.m. left about 35 million people without electricity. Power was restored in some areas shortly before midnight.

The power outage came three hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo left for Brunei to attend a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and other top officials immediately went on radio to reassure the nation, jittery over the latest round of coup rumors, that it was strictly a technical problem. Security was beefed up in Malacañang as a precaution.

"There is no reason to panic. It's a normal tripping of the Sual plant," Reyes said over dzMM.

But the US firm Mirant Philippines, owner of the coal-fired Sual power plant, did not mention jellyfish as the cause of the breakdown.

"Sual was operating and it suddenly broke down. We are still coordinating with Napocor to determine what could have caused it," said Paul Flake, Mirant Philippines vice president for external affairs.

When the Sual power plant broke down the 300-mw power Calaca plant also conked out.

After two minutes, the 400-mw Pagbilao coal plant, the 300-mw plant of Quezon Power and the 440-mw Leyte-Luzon interconnection broke down simultaneously.

In Northern Luzon, as of 5 p.m., there was no power in the whole of Baguio City, major towns of Nueva Vizcaya (Bayombong, Solano and Bambang), Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Olongapo City, most of

LUZON/ A20

PARA SA MGA COCONUT FARMERS AT SA ATING LAHAT!

Create ₱57-B 'perpetual trust fund,' GMA urged

By TJ Burgonio

A COCONUT farmers' group has urged the President to issue an executive order constituting all of the P57-billion Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) in San Miguel Corp. into a "perpetual trust fund" for the coco farmers, saying the tillers should be given the chance to manage their own fund.

The 3-million-strong National Federation of Small Coconut Farmers Organizations Inc. (NFSCFO) said the new executive order would repeal the past administration's EO 313 which allocated only 30 percent of the CIIF's interest earnings to the farmers.

"That (fund) belongs to the farmers. They should get all of it and use it. Why do we get only its income? We'll use all of it. Banks think we don't know how to use it," said NFSCFO consultant Maximo Mendoza Jr. in an interview.

Of the P57 billion, the farmers plan to use some P50 million as capital for a coconut farmers' corporation, another amount to fund research and development, and another for pilot risk-free modules, among other things, Mendoza said.

"The government should give the farmers a chance to turn the economy around," he said.

Mendoza submitted a draft EO to the Philippine Coconut Authority on Oct. 26 for signing by the President. The EO provides for the constitution of the P57-billion CIIF into a trust fund for the farmers, and the creation of a coconut farmers' corporation to manage it.

The trust fund, he said, should be "perpetually maintained and preserved," never be sold and should be used by the coconut farmers' corporation.

"The President should call all the farmers' groups to a meeting in Malacañang and act on this (draft)," Mendoza said. "I'm sure she'll approve it because the EO we made is good for everybody."

The government, however, plans to use the P57 billion as a trust fund with which to rehabilitate the coconut industry once the dispute over the coco levy funds is resolved.

Then President Joseph Estrada issued in November last year EO 313 constituting CIIF shares into a trust fund for the coconut farmers and creating a committee to manage it.

The EO, however, earmarked only 20 percent of the trust fund's income to the Philippine Coconut Producers Confederation, and 30 percent to the other coconut farmers' groups, including the NFSCFO. The balance reverted to the trust fund.

The CIIF constitutes 27 percent of the outstanding capital stock of San Miguel Corp. and now amounts to P57 billion, including a P7-billion income. It was the United Coconut Planters' Bank, the coco levy administrator, that invested the CIIF in SMC.

Businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, SMC chair, had voiced willingness to honor a stalled settlement with the Estrada administration in which he would surrender the "27 percent CIIF-SMC shares."

The settlement came after Estrada issued EO 313, which directed the Presidential Commission on Good Government to exclude the 27 percent CIIF-SMC shares from one of the eight civil cases filed against Cojuangco and other Marcos cronies with the Sandiganbayan.

MALACANANG PHOTO

PRESIDENT Macapagal stresses a point during her radio show "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo" held at the presidential mansion in Baguio City Saturday.

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Militant labor hits GMA for 'anti-labor' statement

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA
AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

ONCE supportive militant labor groups have turned against President Macapagal-Arroyo after she called the P125 pay hike being sought by workers "anti-labor" on her radio program Saturday.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno said the President's pronouncement was a declaration of "war" against the workers, a challenge that the workers are "determined to accept."

KMU spokesperson Sammy Malunes said labor groups are prepared to stage mass actions to pressure Congress into passing House Bill 2605, which mandates a P125 across-the-board wage increase.

In a show of unity, the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino yesterday extended a "hand of cooperation" to rival KMU for joint actions and a coordinated campaign for a wage increase.

"Whatever the BMP (thinks) of KMU's call for a P125 across-the-board wage increase, we will never consider the demand to be anti-labor," the BMP said in a statement.

The last time the two biggest labor alliances got together was during the January uprising that toppled Joseph Estrada from power and installed the administration of Ms Macapagal.

"Estrada used to be the workers' enemy number one, but now the BMP is declaring President Macapagal the new enemy number one," said BMP president Victor Briz.

Briz said the President has failed miserably to protect and uphold the workers' constitutional right to decent wages.

Former party-list representative and incumbent chair of the Partido ng Manggagawa Renato Magtubo called on leaders of labor groups to unite and plan "the general strike (that would) win a wage increase for all."

Magtubo said Malacañang's priority to generate more jobs rather than implement a wage increase was just "a sorry excuse to perpetuate cheap labor" and make the country more attractive to foreign investors.

The regional wage board approved last month a P30 emergency cost of living allowance for Metro Manila workers, but labor groups remained restless.

President Macapagal had said over her radio program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," that the P125 wage hike was ``anti-labor" as it would lead to inflation, massive retrenchments, layoffs and business closures.

Malunes said retrenchments and business shutdowns were caused not by increased wages but by a slump in market demand, high interest rates, lack of capital, reorganization and downsizing, and stiff competition from foreign businesses.

"Department of Labor and Employment data showed that 1,815 establishments with 43,028 workers that permanently closed did not cite wage hikes as the main reason for their closure," Malunes said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, KMU chair, filed the P125 wage bill in the House. Sen. Juan Flavier filed a counterpart bill in the Senate but has since withdrawn it after President Macapagal made known her stand on the issue.

In Lucena City, the Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino (PMP), an underground labor group, branded the President as a "parrot of the capitalist line and a puppet of capitalist interests."

Patricio Ramirez, PMP spokesperson, said Ms Macapagal was "simply repeating word-for-word the capitalist propaganda that a wage increase would lead to retrenchments and shutdowns."

He said the President "does not seem to notice that her `capitalist economics' contradicts her `holiday economics'."

"She had averred that workers' spending would jump-start the economy, while now she is arguing that money in workers' hands would paralyze the economy," the labor leader said.

He was referring to the President's recent statement that she was inclined to declare a weeklong holiday during the Christmas season.

The Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino-Southern Tagalog chapter warned that it would stage a total labor strike in the region.

"No matter the urgency for money in anticipation of the holiday season, the situation calls for labor to confront the President's announcement through a general strike," said Ferdinand Perez, BMP-ST chair.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said that Saturday—the day the President branded the P125 wage increase as "anti-labor"—should be considered a "day of national tragedy."

In a press statement, Pamalakaya said: "If there is one staunch anti-labor official in government, she's none other than the President, who treats Filipino workers as slaves in capitalists' concentration camps."

The group urged workers to stage protests of "gigantic proportions" and challenge the administration to a "showdown that the President will never forget." *With Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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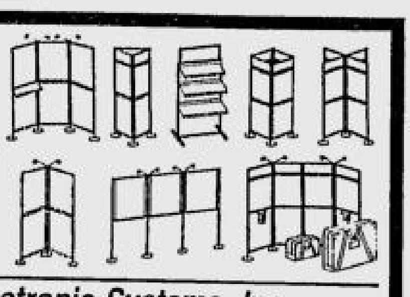
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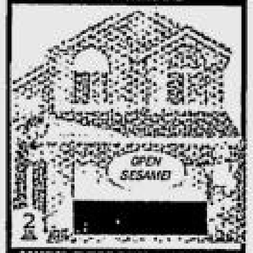

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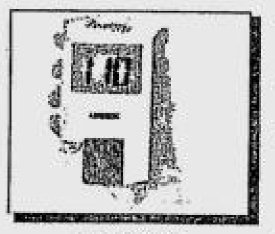
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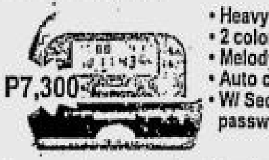
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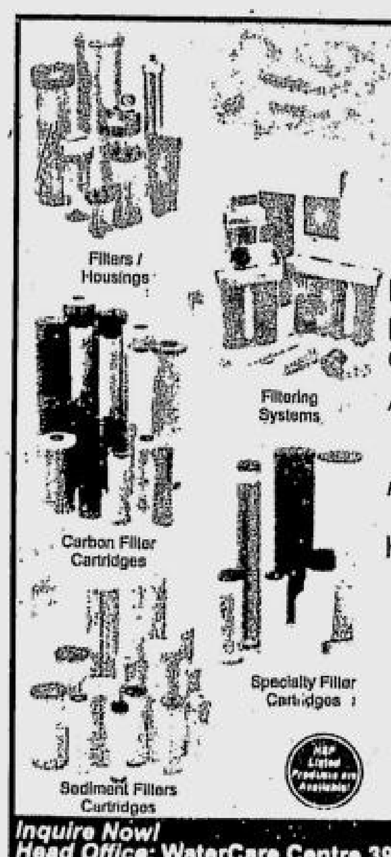

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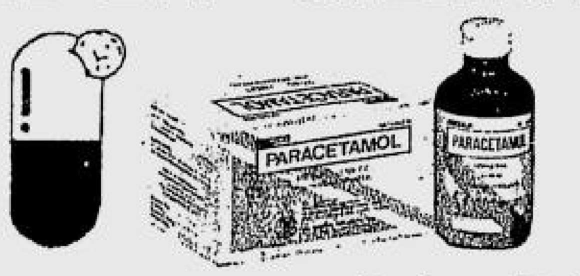
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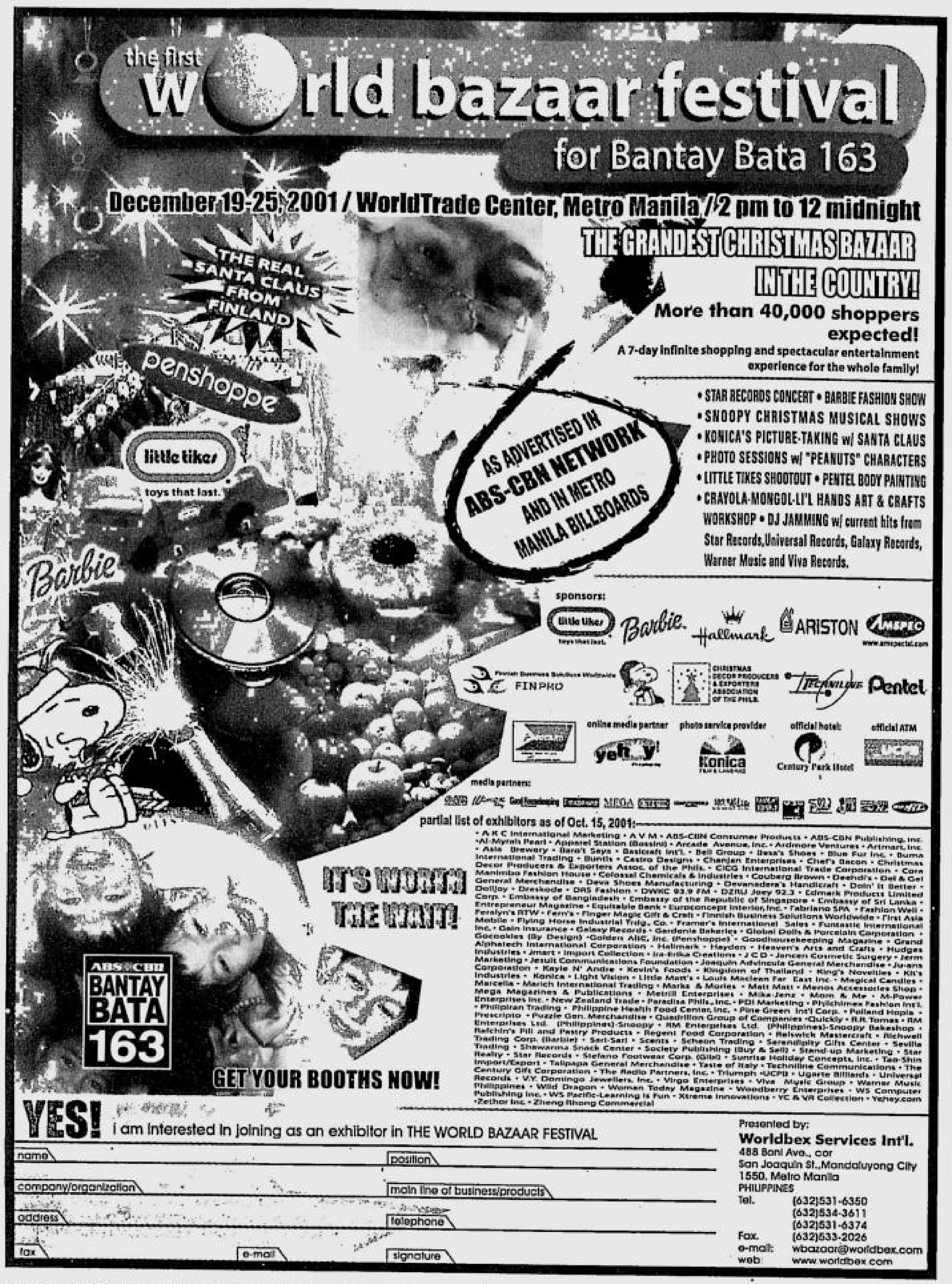

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165 kidnappers await execution on death row

AT LEAST 165 convicted kidnappers, including 10 women, are among those facing death by lethal injection should President Macapagal-Arroyo decide to lift the moratorium on executions.

This was disclosed by Sen. Renato Cayetano who noted that condemned kidnappers comprise about 9 percent of the 1,854 inmates on death row as of September this year.

Cayetano issued the statement in reaction to the President's earlier pronouncement that she intended to lift the moratorium on executions "to strike fear" in the hearts of hardened criminals amid a wave of kidnappings.

Among those in line for execution are Roderick Licayan and Roberto Lara whose death verdicts were upheld with finality by the Supreme Court last month.

The two men were found guilty of kidnapping businessman Joseph Co and his secretary, Linda Manaysay, in Marikina City in September 1999.

Cayetano also said it would be pointless for Malacañang to review the cases of six kidnappers whose death verdicts were commuted to life imprisonment by then President Joseph Estrada in December last year.

Engano to sue Alit for contempt

LAWYERS of Supt. Josue Engano, one of two contenders for director of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, are preparing to file contempt of court charges against Chief Supt. Arturo Alit for allegedly issuing orders without authority from Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr.

Engano, who had secured a temporary restraining order from the Court of Appeals against a ruling of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court nullifying his appointment, said he remains as BJMP chief even without the TRO.

In a statement, Engano said that Alit issued several memoranda and office orders after Judge Modesto Juanson ordered his reinstatement as OIC of the BJMP.

Engano, a lawyer, explained that the decision of Juanson on Oct. 29 nullifying his appointment would only become final and executory after 15 days, or on Nov. 13.

Engano before the holidays filed a supplemental petition for certiorari with the CA seeking the nullification of Juanson's order. The CA set a hearing of Engano's petition on Nov. 7.

In the TRO issued by the CA's first division, the appellate court enjoined Juanson from acting and conducting further proceedings in the petition filed by Alit questioning the appointment of Engano by Malacañang on Sept. 27. *Gerald Lacuarta*

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110 US Marines land at Clark

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Some 110 United States Marines on board four KC-130 military aircraft arrived here Sunday for an overnight stay and to have the planes refueled.

Local and US officials refused to comment on the troops' eventual destination, except to say they were "support personnel" for the US-led international war on terrorism.

Elmer Cato, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFACOM), said the Americans are based at Futenma Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, information chief of the Philippine Air Force's 600th Air Base Wing here, said this was the first time since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the US that the American military used Clark in its counter-terrorist campaign.

The Macapagal administration committed Clark and the former Subic Naval Base in Zambales for the refueling and transit needs of aircraft participating in the US-led "Operation Enduring Freedom."

Clark, for almost a century, was America's largest air base outside the US mainland.

The aircraft started arriving at 2:15 p.m. at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here with the last KC-130, carrying 30 Marines, landing at just past 3:30 p.m. All the aircraft are capable of refueling in midair.

American military officers and US Embassy personnel declined to be interviewed.

Five F-18 Hornet fighter planes are expected to land at the DMIA today at 8 a.m. to refuel, Ballesteros said.

The contingent that arrived yesterday was expected at Clark since Oct. 17, Ballesteros said, but the flights were cancelled due to bad weather in Japan.

Cato said the US Marines will be "restricted" to the Holiday Inn at the Mimosa Leisure Estate here.

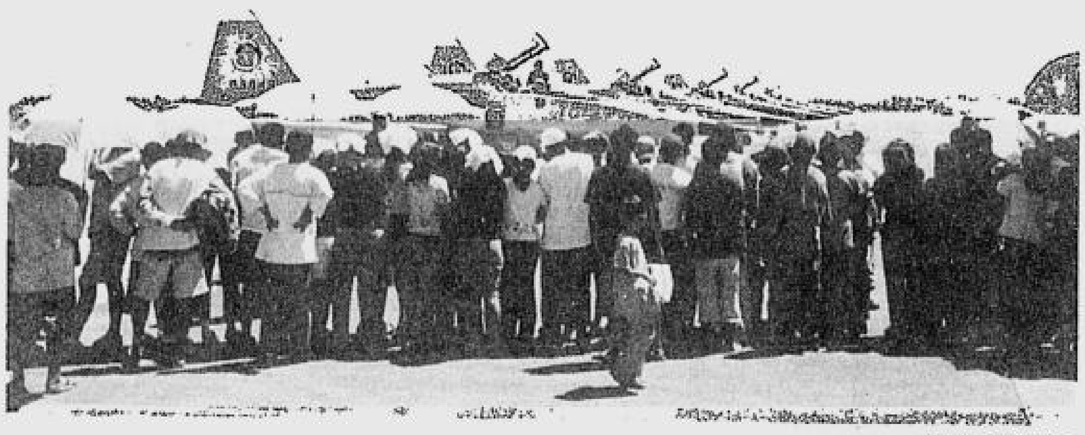
"There will be no rest and recreation for them," he said, adding this was in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's policy on transiting foreign forces.

The hotel has been "routinely secured" since Sunday morning, Holiday Inn sources said.

Unlike on Oct. 17, no anti-war protesters were gathered at the gates of Clark this time.

Cato said some 100 US Navy and Air Force personnel are expected in Cebu later this month for the weeklong war exercise "Flash Piston."

Cato said the VFACOM has suggested to the Americans that they hold the exercise elsewhere, since many of the "untoward incidents" that occurred under the VFA took place in Cebu.



AIR FORCE PHOTO

CEBUANOS get a close look of five F-5 "Freedom Fighters" at the Benito Ebuen Air Base in Mactan, Cebu.

'We have an Air Force' – PAF

TO SHOW that it still exists and has in fact acquired the anti-terror capabilities needed to meet new challenges, the Philippine Air Force staged a two-day air show in Cebu dubbed as "Duna Kita'y Air Force"— English "We Have an Air Force."

The program was held on Oct. 27 at the Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base and was the highlight of the third anniversary of the base's Tactical Operations Command.

PAF Chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin P. Defensor Jr., TOC commander Maj. Gen. Nestor R. Santillan, government officials and others witnessed the air show.

"We are not just performing an air show, we are delivering the message that the PAF, despite its limited resources, knows how to project and utilize its air power. The demonstration is the message," Defensor said.

The show featured the Jaguars, the PAF's newest air show team, which entertained the crowd of around 5,000 with basic maneuvers consisting of bomb bursts, "lazy eights," "chandelle breaks" and "dirty passes."

An aerobatic demonstration, staged at a higher altitude, was performed by the Blue Diamonds. Maj. Gilbert Bartolome, commander of 6th Tactical Fighter Squadron, led the five-plane formation of F5s doing loops and solo stunts.

To showcase its new capability to provide support to ground troops, the 220th Airlift Wing unveiled its cargo deliver system.

A C-130, on a low pass, opened its belly and dropped a pallet of relief goods under a parachute which landed in a designated zone.

"We used to do cargo drops with our C-130s in simulated humanitarian exercises with the Americans and other allies," said Brig. Gen. Rodante Joya, 220th Airlift Wing Commander.

"We felt our fellow Filipinos needed to know we have this capability that is useful in no-landing conditions," he added.

The Special Operations Wing, for its part, demonstrated its counter-urban terrorist capability in a hostage scenario.

Using a helicopter and dogs, members of the elite 710th SPOW rappelled, maneuvered, and stormed a makeshift room to rescue a hostage.

During the show the day before, the PAF conducted a mass fly-by of its F5s, OV-10s, SF-260s, Nomads, UH-1H, MG-520 and Bell 205 rescue helicopters.

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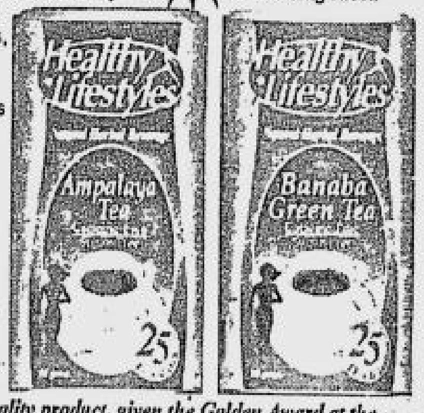

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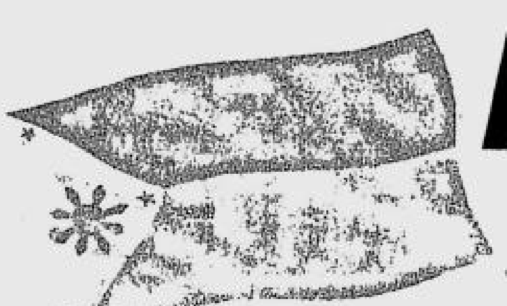

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Are they biohazard threats?

By TJ Burgonio

COULD they be the two Filipinos who were suspected of being biohazard threats?

Two men who were barred from entering the United States for still unknown reasons arrived in Manila on Friday night, fueling speculations that they could be the two Filipinos held in Seattle on Wednesday and then deported on suspicion that they were carrying anthrax.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said yesterday she has yet to confirm with the US immigration and Naturalization Service (NS) if indeed the two passengers were the two deportees.

"I would confirm with the INS early tomorrow morning (today) if these two people were the same ones. There were two who were deported from the US on Friday but we're not sure if they are the ones deported. It's unfair to say they are if they are not," she said in an ambush interview.

Domingo, however, admitted there were strong indications that the two passengers, Wel S. Come, 32, and Bernie L. Crisostomo, 42, were those deported by US authorities, citing immigration records.

"They might be the ones. So far, they were the only ones sent back on an airline to airline basis (A to A) during the holidays," she said. "That's the profiling of our immigration officers. But to be fair we want to know (the real story) from the INS."

Bernardita Catalla, duty officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs, said the department has no information yet on the case of the two deported Filipinos.

Come and Crisostomo flew in around 10:30 p.m. Friday aboard Northwest Airlines flight 072. They were a few seats apart. Come was in 64-K while Crisostomo was in 64-H, immigration intelligence officer Rudy David said, citing immigration records.

They were not escorted by US immigration officers. The airline crew did not cite any reason why they were barred from entering the US except to say that their case was A to A, meaning they were turned back and then booked on the next flight back to Manila, he said.

Upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the two were only asked to fill out an interception form at the immigration office but were never questioned since their travel papers were authentic, David said.

Flight NW 027 originated from Los Angeles.

Citing their records, David said that Come and Crisostomo left for the US on Wednesday morning aboard Northwest Airlines Flight NW 028 bound for Los Angeles via Tokyo. The flight took off at 6:47 a.m.

Come listed his address in the Philippines as St. Mark Street corner St. Andrew Street, Don Bosco Village, Parañaque; while Crisostomo listed his as Blk 10, Lot 52-J, Golden City, Balibago, Laguna.

Initial reports showed that two Filipinos on a Northwest Airlines flight from Manila via Tokyo were detained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation upon their arrival in Seattle on Wednesday.

Their detention came after FBI officials received a tip that someone flying from the Philippines might be carrying anthrax.

They were later reported to have withdrawn their intention to enter the US following intense questioning by INS agents. They were deported on Thursday and took a 12:30 p.m. flight back to Manila.

The two Filipinos, whose identities were withheld, reportedly arrived in Seattle at around 6 a.m. on Wednesday.

"If we follow the flight schedules of Come and Crisostomo from Manila to US and back, they seem to jibe with those of the two Pinoys who were reportedly held and deported," David said.

CRISOSTOMO

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Passion and obfuscation—The appreciation of the ordinary mitigating circumstances of sufficient provocation and passion and obfuscation under Article 13, paragraphs 4 and 6 have no factual basis. Sufficient provocation as a requisite of incomplete self-defense is different from sufficient provocation as a mitigating circumstance. As an element of self-defense, it pertains to its absence on the part of the person defending himself, while as a mitigating circumstance, it pertains to its presence on the part of the offended party. Besides, only one mitigating circumstance can arise out of one and the same act. Assuming for the sake of argument that the blowing of horns, cutting of lanes or overtaking can be considered as acts of provocation, the same were not sufficient. The word "sufficient" means adequate to excite a person to commit a wrong and must accordingly be proportionate to its gravity. For the mitigating circumstance of passion and obfuscation to be appreciated, it is required that (1) there be an act, both unlawful and sufficient to produce such a condition of mind; and (2) said act which produced the obfuscation was not far removed from the commission of the crime by a considerable length of time, during which the perpetrator might recover his normal equanimity. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, People v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 103613, Feb. 23, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 5, 2001
31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Rom 11:29-36**
Gospel: **Lk 14:12-14**

Jesus also addressed the man who had invited him and said, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, or your brothers and relatives and wealthy neighbors. For surely they will also invite you in return and you will be repaid. When you give a feast, invite instead the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Fortunate are you then, because they can't repay you; you will be repaid at the Resurrection of the upright."

Commentary

Ancient Graeco-Roman culture valued rewards. Host and guests sought to be rewarded in banquets. To be invited was a debt for inviting in return. The principle was: I invite you that you may invite me. For the Christian community, relationship is not the place for rewards. It is not ruled by give-and-take. Love is unlimited generosity and self-giving. Every action has its reward. The Christian does not seek this reward from guests. The guests do not pay; they cannot afford the Christian reward. The Bible teaches its principle of no double reward. If we are rewarded now on earth, we cannot expect another reward in heaven. If for a good deed we do not get the reward now on earth, it is waiting for us in heaven.

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Department of Transportation and Communications invites computer companies to bid for the **DOTC New Computer and Printer Purchase**, consisting of:
   1.1 Purchase of personal computers, notebook computers, laser printers, color printers and uninterruptible power supply (UPS) units, with the specification and additional equipment and software as specified in the Terms of Reference.
   1.2 Provision of warranty on parts and labor as specified for these units, and maintenance services by technically qualified personnel for hardware.
2. Bidders should have been in this business for at least three (3) years.
3. Implementation of the **DOTC New Computer and Printer Purchase** shall be completed within two (2) months after receipt of the Notice to Proceed.
4. The total amount estimated for this project will be PHP 8,375,500.00.
5. Instructions for eligibility may be secured from the Office of the PEAC-IT Chairman at Unit 34, 3/F, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, from **November 5, 2001** to **November 9, 2001** up to **5:00 PM**. The following steps will be followed:
   5.1. Payment of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) as non-refundable charges at the Cashier's Office, 5/F, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City.
   5.2. Presentation of the official receipt of payment and letter of intent.

All required eligibility documents shall be submitted to the:

Office of the Chairman, PEAC-IT
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Unit 34, 3/F Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue
Mandaluyong City

on or before **November 16, 2001** until **5:00 PM. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, accept such bid considered most advantageous to the government, or refrain from making any award.

(Sgd.) **ALAN A. TAN**
Asst. Secretary for Legal Affairs
and Administrative Services
and Chairman, PEAC-IT

(PDI – Oct. 29, 30 & Nov. 5, 2001)

Nur Misuari warns: 'You cannot count this man out'

By Alexander M. Young
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAMP BIYAHAN, Silangkan, Sulu—Erstwhile Moro National Liberation Front chair Nur Misuari said here yesterday he was just waiting for a formal invitation from the rival Moro Islamic Liberation Front to rejoin the struggle for an independent Muslim Mindanao.

Speaking before a crowd that included some 1,000 fully armed members of an MNLF faction that continues to recognize him as chairman, Misuari said: "If they (MILF) will try to convince us to fight for independence, then I will go back to the (assembly) just like that," snapping his fingers.

The assembly he was referring to was the 5th National Bangsamoro Assembly, a gathering of MNLF members aimed at resolving issues and arriving at decisions, that he addressed on Sunday. The assembly started Thursday.

Misuari, whose loss of the MNLF chairmanship was partly engineered by a Malacañang-backed faction of the organization, urged his followers to be ready for any provocation "by elements of the Philippine government."

"(There is a) very, very narrow option left for us," he said.

The MILF until the late '70s was part of the MNLF, but Salamat Hashim, then Misuari's vice chairman, decided to form another group in pursuit of what he termed was the appropriate revolution for the Moro people.

Although the MILF is currently in peace talks with the government, it has not stopped its armed struggle.

The Inquirer learned that the MILF had sent a delegation to the 5th Bangsamoro assembly.

The MILF delegation, Misuari later admitted, had handed him a letter from Hashim that indicated the MILF's commitment "to the long-awaited demand of the people for the two fraternal organizations to unite."

"The important thing, I think, is there should be a fundamental realignment of forces here. And this realignment involves the most powerful and most influential revolutionary movement in the whole (of) Mindanao, if not the whole country," Misuari said.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, confirmed efforts by both groups to forge some sort of unity.

VAL HANDUMON

A DEFIANT Nur Misuari raises his fist during an MNLF Congress in Sulu.

"They (MNLF) expressed their support for us, but there are so many ways for them to help achieve our goal. One does not have to go to the battlefield and fight," Kabalu said.

In a press briefing during the assembly, Misuari said the union of the MNLF and MILF was being pushed by their allies in other countries.

"They are waiting all over the Islamic world for this. They have been urging us; they have been urging me. I think this is the most important development at this time," Misuari said.

Toward the end of his defiant speech, Misuari said of himself: "You cannot count this man out, you cannot count him out."

Observers tried to decipher what he meant by that but some said it could be proof that he was really hurting after the recent events that saw his leadership eroded. *With a report from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Pentagon' strikes anew, kidnaps rich rice trader

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI MindanaoBureau

LIBUNGA, Cotabato—The Pentagon gang, which is fast gaining notoriety for kidnapping, has struck again, this time grabbing a wealthy rice trader here.

Insp. Rufino Inot, town police chief told the INQUIRER that Martina Martin, who is in her early 40s, was snatched by suspected members of the kidnap gang around 3:30 p.m. yesterday inside the victim's rice mill.

Rufino said at least four armed men dragged the victim into a blue car with Plate No. NPE 552. The car was later found in barangay Upper Labas in nearby Midsayap town, which lies at the border of Cotabato and Maguindanao provinces. Rufino said the suspects burned the get-away car.

He said witnesses told police that the suspects transferred to a motorized banca and headed for the vast Liguasan Marsh.

The Pentagon has recently gained notoriety for kidnapping businessmen and foreigners, including Italian missionary Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni.

Last month, the group admitted getting P20 million for the release of a kidnapped Chinese engineer who worked in the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation project in Carmen town.

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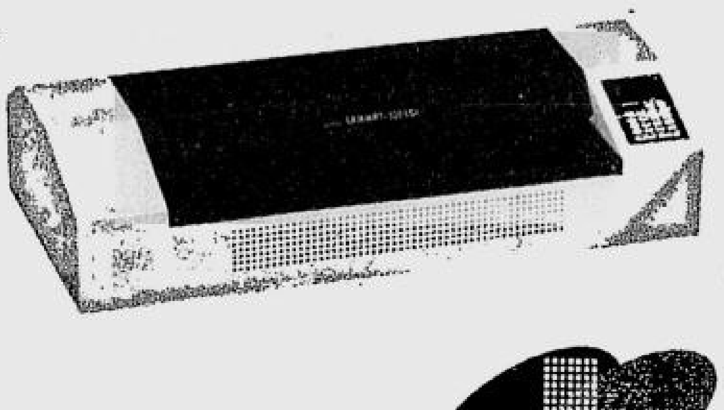

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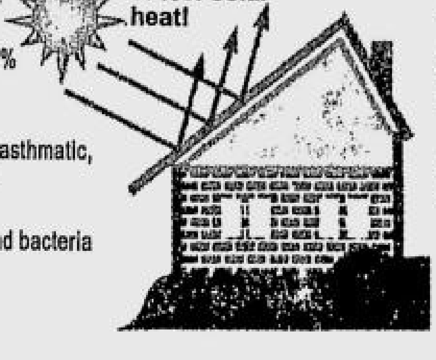
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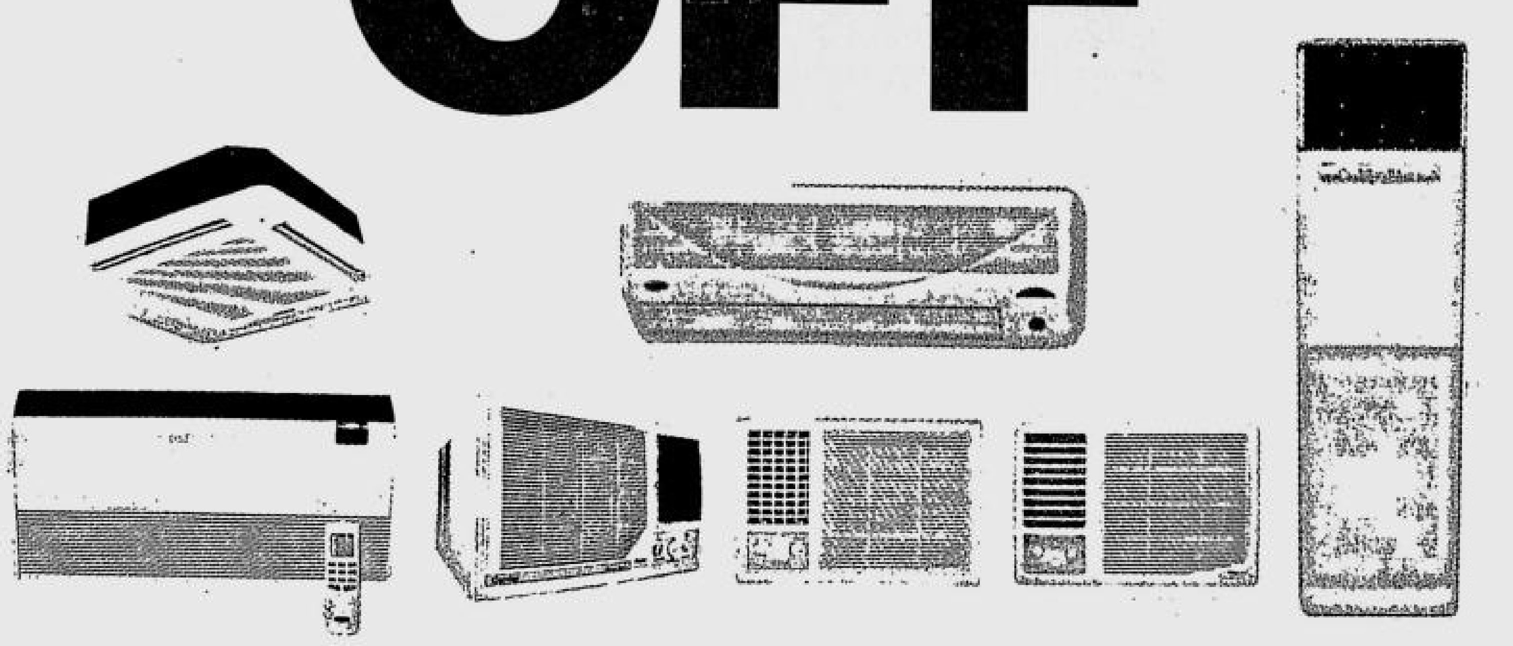

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'Unusual wounds'

EDITORIAL

ON OCT. 8, five men were killed in a military encounter in Barangay Conversion, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija. The Armed Forces claimed that the men were members of the New People's Army, and the encounter was a legitimate military operation. The day after the incident, Army officials said the dead probably belonged to the NPA unit which launched a daytime assault on the town hall and police station of Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya on Dec. 23 last year.

But the United Methodist Church and human rights groups say otherwise. They say three of the victims were fishermen who belonged to the UMC, and that they were tortured before they were killed.

"There were signs of torture on the five victims," Bishop Solito Toquero of the UMC told reporters on Oct. 25. He cited the report of the experts—Prof. Jerome Bailen, an anthropologist of the University of the Philippines and Dr. Regalado Aure, medico-legal officer of the Commission on Human Rights—which found "unusual wounds" on at least three of the five victims, all residents of Barangay Conversion.

Gertrude Tutaan Curamen, for example, had cut wounds on the top of his head, on the right side of his face, and on the back of his right hand—and his eyes had been gouged out. The victims' kin later found some of the bodies lying neatly side by side.

The secretary general of the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, Danny Beltran, said the findings show that what happened on that day "was not a military encounter." The five victims "appeared to have been massacred," Bishop Toquero said.

Church and human rights groups have tagged members of the 54th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army as being behind the torture-slayings, and have called for an independent investigation of the incident.

We support their call.

We believe that the defense establishment itself would support such an independent investigation. At any rate, it should. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva know all too well that the Armed Forces have come a long way from the dark days of martial rule, when the country's rumor mills were kept busy with story after story of military-instigated torture, and the loyalty of the men and women in uniform was used to prop up the regime. The AFP has matured since the adventurist years in the late 1980s, when ambitious colonels imposed political plans on an unwilling citizenry.

By and large, the country's soldiers and sailors, airmen and Marines still march under the standard hallowed by two People Power movements. They are perceived to be what the Constitution says they are: the protectors of the people.

Even at the lowest point of the military's pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, when the bandits' escape from the hospital placed the very patriotism of its officers and men under question, a soldier—Scout Ranger Capt. Ruben Guinolbay—emerged to remind the public that the ranks of its armed services remained peopled by honorable men.

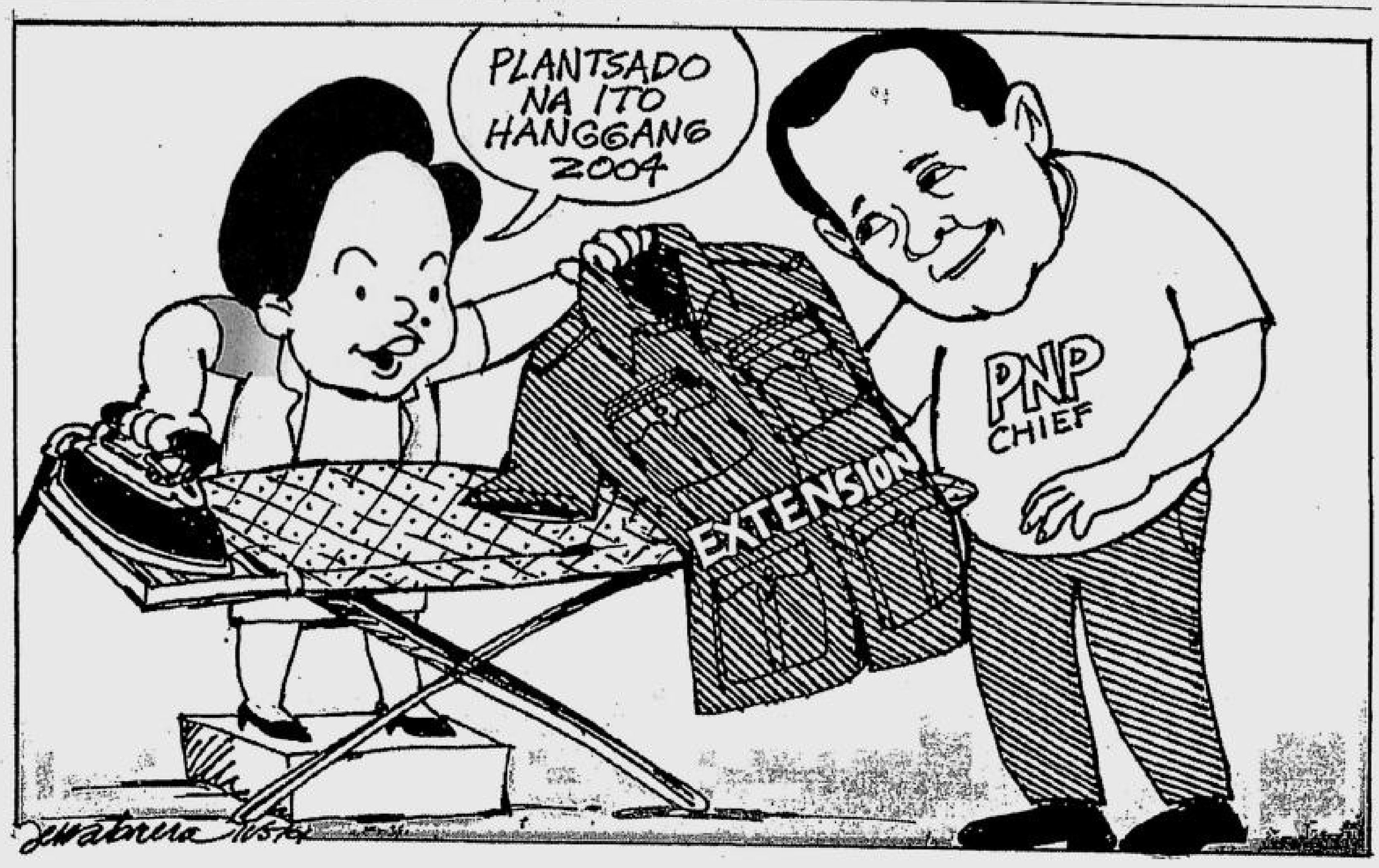
The Barangay Conversion incident, however, threatens to undo, or indeed to convert, much of the rehabilitation the military has enjoyed since February 1986.

The findings of the forensic experts constitute compelling prima facie evidence for an investigation. But the possible impact on the reputation of the AFP presents an even more persuasive argument.

If the five residents of Barangay Conversion were indeed victims of torture or of a massacre, the military should be held to the strictest standards of accountability. Punishment must be meted out, not only to the men who perpetrated the atrocities, but to their commanding officers in the field as well.

The defense establishment must not only set a rigorous example; it must also send a message as clear and as unmistakable as reveille: the days of military torture are long gone, and they have been forever stricken off the military's calendar.

But if the "unusual wounds" suffered by the five victims and other circumstances of their death can be explained in other ways, however, then it will be our privilege to set the record straight.



Village residents paid for open spaces

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE FRACAS over the 3-hectare space in Greenmeadows Subdivision between their residents and Paref-Northfield which wants to build a school on it, may be over. Ortigas & Company, owner and developer of the subdivision which had earlier posed no objection to the proposed construction of the school, has changed its mind and has recalled its approval. In a letter signed by Fernando M. Ortigas, general partner, it asked Paref-Northfield "to refrain and desist from making further representations that we have waived the restrictions on the deed of donation as you had represented in the past."

Ortigas also wrote another letter to Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte informing him of the company's change of heart. "Events and developments...had made it apparent that there are questions on the legality of building an elementary and high school in a residential area zoned as R-1," the letter said. "Representatives of the homeowners associations of Greenmeadows I and II have also indicated to us their very strong objections to the project. The project proponents have likewise not sufficiently complied with one of the key conditions to our decision of not objecting to the proposed project."

These conditions are:

- That the project was for the general good.
- That the affected communities support the project.
- That no laws, ordinances and regulations would be violated.
- That the traffic situation now obtaining in the area is not further aggravated by the project.
- That the company and its principals will be held free and harmless from any suit arising from the "no objection" decision.

"Because of these assumptions, we did not anticipate the controversy and ill-will generated by this project. It appears that it has also polarized and divided the communities that the school project was supposed to serve. We have been informed that neighboring subdivisions led by Greenmeadows I and II Homeowners Associations with more than 1,200 home/lot owners are against the project," Ortigas said.

"In addition, the protection of the company and its officers against suits that might arise from its 'no objection' decision which was requested from your office was not sufficiently complied with."

Paref-Northfield should give up the project. It is in a no-win situation. Even if, by some miracle, it is able to build its school in the open space, the angry residents can make life hard for it. For one thing, residents whom the school is supposed to serve will not make their children go to that school. They can picket the school and even prevent students from outside from entering the subdivisions. Who is the parent who will enroll his child in a school like that? Instead of making oodles of money as it expected, therefore, Paref-Northfield will lose its investment in the school building.

Besides, the Quezon City Council which had earlier approved the Quezon City government-Paref memorandum of agreement, may be changing its mind. The City Hall Association. Of Government Employees (Change-QC) said in a letter that enough councilors are now opposed to the project. Councilor Ariel Inton Jr. has filed two resolutions for the repeal of the MOA. He is supported, the letter said, by freshmen councilors Restituto Malangan, Dante de Guzman, Aiko Melendez, Diorella Sotto, Mary Ann Susano, Allan Francisco, Ricky del Rosario, Victor Ferrer Jr. and reelectionists Rommel Abesamis, Wilma Amoranto-Sarino, Almario Francisco and Marvin Rillo.

"These 13 councilors have consistently shown an attitude of fairness, objectivity and level-headedness, not only in this case, but in their other legislative measures filed with the Council," wrote Orly Abad, Change-QC president. "We hope that their spirit and leadership will help attain a much-needed constructive reform in the Council for the benefit of the 2.2. million constituents of Quezon City."

Even legally, I do not think that the council and city government (or any local government unit, for that matter) can do as they please with the open space of a subdivision if the residents oppose it. The open space belongs to the residents, not to the LGU even if the latter holds the title. The LGU holds the title only as a trustee of the residents, precisely to make sure that the space is used only as a park for the entertainment and recreation of the residents.

They may not hold the title to it, but the park belongs to the buyers of lots in the subdivision because they paid for it. Its cost, as well as those of the roads in the subdivision, are added to the cost of the lots. This is supported by decisions of the Supreme Court and Presidential Decree 1216.

"Open spaces (and the roads in residential subdivisions) are deemed paid for by buyers in the subdivision since the cost of providing those areas are part of the pricing of the developer," ruled the tribunal.

PD 1216 says: "...at least 30 percent of the total area of a subdivision must be reserved, developed and maintained as an open space for parks and recreational areas, the cost of which will ultimately be borne by the lot buyers which thereby increase the acquisition price of the lots..."

It is unfair for Paref-Northfield—ironically owned by a prestigious and respected (?) religious organization, the Opus Dei—to try to acquire for itself for free, a P950-million piece of land that does not belong to it. If it only wants to build a school and serve a community—and not to profit from somebody else's investment—why not buy your own lot and build your school there?

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@ pacific.net.ph

Outta sight

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT rained pretty much the whole day All Saints' Day in Tacloban. Not the furious intermittent type, but the slow, steady type, the rain falling alternately in a heavy slush and a fine drizzle. I tried walking at one point from where I was, but got pelted by big drops of water from the overhanging branches of trees that shook from a sudden gust of wind, which drove me back.

The day began relatively lightly, a sheen of brightness clinging to the roof of houses. The sky was streaked with blue. The sea looked like glazed ice, rocklike in its stillness, like an image frozen by a camera or an artist's easel. But that did not last for very long. Clouds soon billowed overhead, a grayness spread into the horizon and rain fell. The sea stirred, myriad of small wavy lines breaking through its face like wrinkles.

I didn't mind. Having just come from the sweltering heat of Metro Manila—the day before I left, the earth felt like a furnace—the gray skies, fuzzy landscape and general wetness were a boundless relief. I had been dying to get out of Metro Manila for some time, but had been wondering where to go for the long holiday. When someone suggested a meeting in Tacloban, I jumped at it. I needed the respite. Anywhere would have been fine.

I don't know whether it's me or Metro Manila—I suppose it must be a little of both. But the heat and the grime and the crime are getting to me, and the lure of living elsewhere is getting more and more powerful by the day. It's the traffic in particular that's driving me away, though that seems like an oxymoronic way of putting it. I saw a friend of mine a couple of weeks ago at a forum and was amazed when he asked the hotel people to call a taxi for him. I asked him what had happened to his car—he used to be fastidious about cars—and he told me driving had lost all its allure for him. Metro Manila's traffic had done what the prices of cars and gasoline had failed to do, which was to discourage him from driving in Metro Manila. I said I understood what he meant completely.

It's gotten so I often venture out only at night, and even then only well into it, the early hours being home as well to rocklike immobility in the streets. Being stuck in Metro Manila's traffic can give you a well of insight into the plight of detainees. Courtesy of road diggings, which seemed to have sprouted all over where I live, potholes, and criminally insane bus, jeepney and taxi drivers, driving in Metro Manila is guaranteed to drive you out of your mind. Being stuck in traffic has almost become a metaphor for what life in Metro Manila has become.

No, I didn't mind being driven back by a blast of fine rain, and not being able to go on, walking under the canopy of trees, their boughs flailing every which way in riotous abundance. Between being stuck under an arch, the yellow and red of flowers jutting out like fresh paint from the green of bushes and being stuck in the middle of cars and buses, seeing gray fumes spewed from exhausts like the contents of the night's carousing from a besotted mouth, I know which to choose anytime. I didn't mind sitting on a concrete bench in sublime immobility or in a half-hypnotized state, watching pools of water tumble down the long steeply inclined roof of houses and buildings and splash on the ground.

I remembered again through the haze in my mind and in the world how "Lonely Planet" once characterized Tacloban as a place that should hold little attraction for tourists, being possessed of few charms. Well, I don't care much for tourists and the things that grab them—maybe the writer got blindsided by the thought that this was Imelda's favorite haunt?—but I can't see how any place with a spectacular view of the sea and blotches of green shimmering as far as the eye can see can have few charms. Quite apart of course from harboring a charming people—the reputation of the Waray for being a war freak is completely undeserved—people gifted with a true talent for music and the arts.

It gets even better outside Tacloban, the road going south being lined with trees and an expanse of rice fields. The kind you see only in Tarlac on the way to Baguio, but far greener and more lush. But I leave others to discover its charms that way.

Last Thursday, I was perfectly content to just feel the world heave with wetness. It was good to know that there were still parts of the country that could turn into a luminous green from the rain. I remembered reading somewhere that our smell is our most intense and discriminating sense, being able to discern fine shades of scents and retain them in memory for a long time. I could believe it. The different smells of the earth as water fell and seeped into it wafted into my brain, which made me realize again how Metro Manila had knocked me into a stupor smell-wise, my constant state being to defend my nostrils—and my lungs—from the smog and the stench of garbage in my neighborhood. I could almost smell the slap of rainwater on the big open-palmed leaves of an ancient tree.

I took in the briny sting of the sea in my lungs, as the sea lost its vast serenity from the pinpricks from the sky and unfurled heavier wrinkles on its face. A wisp of smoke was twirling from the *sugba* pit, and I caught the faint smell of scallops being turned into a golden brown. I suddenly remembered Tatoi's in Iloilo City. But it was early afternoon, much too light to think of the pleasures of beer and *sumsuman*. Maybe later. A gust of wind blew in from the direction of Samar, a fuzzy undulating profile against a gray sky, lying idly on the other side of the water, and I thought I caught a whiff of ease and somnolence.

I could do this forever. If only getting out of sight every so often, or permanently, didn't cost a cent. If only I didn't need to work. If only I didn't need to wake up.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

GMA to rise or fall based on performance

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OVER THE HOLIDAYS I had time to talk about the current state of affairs with various people, and the consensus seems to be that they are tired of all the loose coup talk. They are questioning why the media are giving so much precious space to young officers who don't seem to have anything better to do than to talk about ,coup plots, when this is projecting an instability that is not helping the country any. I agree. Apparently these young officers want to achieve the same notoriety as that of the failed coup plotters of old, most of whom have since gone into cushy lives; doubtless, some of these young officers also hope to get elected to the Senate, like Gregorio Honasan. But if the coup plots of 15 years ago failed, they will fail again in these times for one simple reason: the people do not want them. What the people want is stability and a better future for their children.

* * *

Over the holidays, some people also asked me: is Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo really very obsessed with 2004? My reply was, I think the President wants to be elected President in 2004; it would be abnormal if she does not have this ambition. But I think GMA is well aware that her prospects will rise or fall on her performance in office. If she does well, no one can challenge her; but if she fails, then she'll be elbowed out by others with just as big ambitions. Who are these? I can think of Education Secretary Raul Roco, who has been very quiet but who is taking care of his base. With such a phenomenal showing in the last elections, Sen. Noli de Castro would doubtless ambition for the top. Sen. Panfilo Lacson would be the logical candidate of the rightist and Erap elements. Why, even the anemic-looking Sen. Edgardo Angara, dreams of this.

* * *

Filipinos are all over the world. Even in faraway Buenos Aires, Argentina, there's some 200 of them, some serving as domestics in the households of diplomats and Muslim businessmen, while others are engineers and accountants. In a stopover in Sydney, Australia, from Buenos Aires, my husband and I were taken by our cousins, Oscar and Beng de Guzman and their daughter Regina around the enclaves in the outskirts of Sydney that teem with Filipinos—subdivisions like Glenfield, Campbell, Woodcroft and Blacktown (the latter is nicknamed "Browntown" because of all the Pinoys). The Pinoys own nice homes in Sydney and appear to be doing very well; around this time the facades of their homes are already bedecked with Christmas décor, such as the Pampanga *parols*, just like the homes in the old country, even though officially, Australia is just entering the summer season. The De Guzmans took us to hear Mass in their neighborhood, and it was like being back in Manila. The Filipinos in Australia, who rank No. 2 among the ethnic groups there, next to the Chinese, number around a quarter of a million.

* * *

My colleague in this space, Amando Doronila, recently spoke about the fatigue plaguing the nation, and the need for some respite from all the tensions we have all undergone over the past months. This is evident in the way the nation seems to have relished the recent five-day holiday—it has been a great break for everyone. Those who could afford it trooped to places like Subic, Clark and Baguio. Subic was really filled to the rafters this year, and its proximity to Manila and the number of attractions present make it truly worthwhile to consider going all-out for tourism there. But most Metro Manilans chose to stay in the metropolis, and merely wandered around the malls, taking it easy.

I stayed in town and last Nov. 2, All Souls' Day, I visited the gravesite of my parents in the Holy Cross Cemetery, in Novaliches, as my late mother, Angustias P. Olivares, turned 100 years old that day. I noticed that the cemetery was still full of people the day after the traditional cemetery-trooping on All Saints' Day. What actually happened was that the long holiday enabled people to spread out their visits to the cemeteries, so that the annual All Saints' Day observance was mercilessly less crowded this year than in past years. In fact, yesterday there were still people trooping to the cemeteries.

* * *

Because the All Saints' Day vacation was a hit, President Macapagal, whose family enjoyed a break in Baguio City, was said to be mulling the idea of declaring a long vacation for the nation during the period between Christmas and New Year. Her idea is that the long holidays could spur domestic tourism by encouraging folks to go out of town. But there are several problems to this. The daily wage earners who fall under the no work-no pay arrangement stand to suffer. Then too, people could be flat broke by then, having splurged on Christmas shopping, so that the great majority of the people still may not be able to go anywhere else. I'm all for pushing domestic tourism—a much belated activity here, in contrast to other countries where the natives themselves are the main propellers for tourism. But the problem is that people here don't have money in their pockets. Besides, having too many long holidays is not good for our people, who are basically still so easy-going and lacking in focus. What we need is to emphasize a strong work ethic.

* * *

I was struck by the news item in yesterday's Manila Times, which said that Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya of the PNP is blaming the lax security at the Baliwag Transit bus station in Edsa for the recent grenade explosion in a Bulacan bus that killed two people and injured five others. Laxity seems to be the rule and we better shape up on this score.

Every time I leave for abroad via our international airport and put my bags through the X-ray machine, I end up invariably scolding the person manning the machine for not being attentive to his or her job, and I call the supervisor's attention. This is because I always catch the personnel at the machine chatting with the security or other people, or at times they sit as though they were in a lounge—hardly scrutinizing the X-ray screen in front of them. Our airport people project a very unprofessional air, which is sadly very Filipino, one might say, and very dangerous in these times of international terrorism. The managers of the various airport terminals should really do something about those manning the X-ray machines.

By contrast, I note how assiduously the personnel in other airports abroad do their job. To illustrate, as we went through the X-ray machine at Sydney Airport on our way home earlier this week, an alert personnel manning it detected a very small nailclipper tucked into my husband's hand-carry, and confiscated it. My husband and I concluded that those manning our X-ray machines at the Naia I and II would never be able to detect that nailclipper.

A matter of sanity

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

HERE in Sulu, the Abu Sayyaf in the jungles has satellite phones, solar power generators and night vision goggles. But we in the capital town of Jolo are not even hooked up to the Internet.

Our text messages hardly get through with over 15,000 subscribers sharing a solitary cellsite that is meant for a maximum of 5,000.

We get to read the INQUIRER only in the afternoon because it comes with the fastcraft that arrives at past noon, and when the weather is bad, there are no newspapers. So aside from the radio, our only source of up-to-the-hour news and information is Cable TV. And even if the few available channels do not include Turner Classic Movies, Star Movies and Hallmark, at least we have BBC, CNN, Fox News, Discovery and National Geographic.

But television these days, especially talk shows, can have a profoundly mind-altering effect on you.

It can, for example, make you think thoughts that in Wordsworth's view, do often lie too deep for tears, or provoke rage too strong for words.

Living in a province of the ARMM, I make it my business to watch any talk show that discusses issues and concerns that affect us here, or feature personalities and officials from Muslim Mindanao, like my life depended on it.

Not even a burning pot on the stove could make me miss a talk show the other Friday that featured ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari as sole guest, especially because it followed another one where Dr. Farouk Hussin, administration candidate for governor in the forthcoming ARMM polls, was part of a panel of discussants. It was a good study in contrasts, to say the least.

Hussin is hardly the type who can convince you to vote for him. Doctor that he is, he hasn't shed his bedside manners. Soft-spoken, he can't be bombastic, but seems compelled to tell it like it is, after years of having to tell patients exactly what was ailing them, even if it was incurable.

And so when asked whether Misuari would still have any role in the new scheme of things, Hussin very courteously replied that with the governor's experience as a revolutionary leader, etc., he certainly could not just be erased from the political landscape of the autonomous region.

Misuari, on the other hand, was his usual dashing self, his thick ebony hair and youthful mien belying his age. He was also his usual angry, complaining self, as he recited the now familiar litany of betrayal and deceit; relishing the prospect that Hussin might be disqualified as candidate because he carries a foreign passport.

Unlike Hussin whose statements can be so mundane and unappealing that you can all but predict the conclusion he is driving at, Misuari, aside from sounding very authoritative with his constant use of the monarchial "we" and referring to himself by his own name, has such a formidable vocabulary at his command that almost everything he says is a quotable quote.

Besides, watching and listening to him on TV can be so mind-boggling and even surreal. Excerpts:

"I have asked the government, I said send the best outfit in your intelligence department, to find out for yourself who actually carries weight in the MNLF and in Mindanao as a whole, because I thought that government is negotiating with us because they thought that it is we in the MNLF that can help restore peace and order in Mindanao.

"What I could see here, if government will not (deny) him (presidential assistant on special concerns Norberto Gonzales), if they will not check him, they will not stop him, he might end up, I'm afraid, dragging everyone into another cauldron of political crisis in Mindanao that could end up in another catastrophic war.

"What I could see is the specter of this dreadful policy of divide and rule, they have tried this so many times, this is the seventh time around, and every time they connived and conspired and colluded against Nur Misuari and his leadership, they always fell flat on their faces, because just like now—I'm not boasting—the government, they spent billions for their intelligence, I hope they can understand that we are not losing here.

"They don't want us to succeed. Why? I thought we already signed the peace agreement with them, we have followed the advice of the Islamic conference organization to look for a solution within the ambit of an autonomous government, and we have signed three peace agreements. This is very abnormal. You look at the history of revolutions in other parts of the world, in Africa, in Edsa, in Latin America, you can never find (anything) like this. The moment they sign the peace agreement, they implement, and then they will turn over the habiliments of governance to the revolutionary government, just like what happened when I signed the Tripoli Agreement.

"What they call my poor performance, this is not true. They refused to go and see the truth for themselves. I told them you roll up all the achievements in the past 50 years before I took over. Compare them with (my) achievements. You see this circumferential road, 162 kilometers of wide, wide roads. Because the most abandoned and the most neglected and the most forgotten place in this part of the world is Jolo, so I concentrated on that because I wanted to restore peace and order in that area…Jolo always exercises a very, very big influence in any hostilities or war in Mindanao, so I made there a beautiful road around the island, you know."

And as I was writing this column, there he was on the late night news with a perfect sound bite to top the above: "I am more powerful, I have a bigger armed forces, I have more powered arms. Believe me!" You better.

Now you know why we must have the elections on Nov. 26, not a single day later. Our sanity depends on it, honest.

Reflections on a trek to the rice terraces

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

BOMOD-OK Falls, "the Big Waterfalls" near the village of Aguid, two and half hours walking from the center of Sagada, in the Mountain Province, rewards its rare visitor with the pristine glory and supercooling spray of a thundering waterfalls, in a secluded canyon, surrounded by the improbable grandeur of real, functioning rice terraces. To get to this natural jewel last week, we descended quickly from the mountain village not worrying about the necessarily arduous trek back up. We walked along the stone *pilapil* that border each rice terrace. At this time of the year, the rice terraces are being prepared for the next crop by the hardy people who inhabit this place, with plow and carabao and the genes of a thousand Igorot generations that have built and labored on these rice terraces for millennia.

On the way back from the falls, we encountered an apparition, a gnarled old woman, literally bent 90 degrees at the waist by the weight of her hundred years. I marveled, as her laboring figure, gave the impression of a three-footed creature, slowly progressing toward me along the path we had ourselves just taken on the way to Bomod-ok. She was assisted only by a stout cane, and the splayed toes needed for self-locomotion in this mountainous terrain. I bade her good morning in English, which is widely spoken in these parts, but she gave only a terse but friendly reply.

After quite a while, she disappeared into a clutch of humble huts and houses far below us, that rose like an island from a sea of elongated ponds that the fallow terraces become at this time of the year. Each terraced plot reflecting a bit of heaven, each subdividing the man-carved mountain, and revealing its hidden, physical contours, each waiting to begin anew the cycle of plowing, planting, watering and harvesting rice. Soon, I thought, this would be a verdant sea of growing rice. I wondered what it would be like to have seen a hundred such cycles as our ancient maiden had.

She was an apparition right out of a Masferré photograph, and appropriate for the day we encountered her, which was All Hallows Eve. Perhaps, in her youth, she was even one of those bare-breasted Igorot maidens who so unselfconsciously posed, in glorious splendor, for that famous Spanish-Igorot photographer's anthropologically invaluable lens, all those years ago. Now grown old, she appears before us, bowed, yet unbowed, a justly proud and living relic of a different era. Our guide seemed to know her and he said she was one of the tribal elders. I guessed so, from her ancient and impressive appearance.

When the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization included the Ifugao Rice Terraces of the Philippines in a special list of world heritage sites under the category of "cultural landscapes" in 1995, it saluted the achievement of the people who built them, by saying that, "For 2,000 years, the high rice fields of the Ifugao have followed the contours of the mountain. The fruit of knowledge passed on from one generation to the next, of sacred traditions and a delicate social balance, they helped form a landscape of great beauty that expresses conquered and conserved harmony between humankind and the environment."

Not very much at all has changed in the technology of rice cultivation in these parts since the old woman was born, or even, since her far ancestors. But there is one innovation that ought to be of interest to environmental activists, and anyone with a genuine concern for the safety of our food supply, in particular the common, ordinary, domestically produced rice. I am referring here to the widespread practice nationwide of drying newly harvested rice along roads and national highways. This gives farmers free access to a nice, flat, sun-warmed surface that makes for an ideal post-harvest facility. Except for one thing, one deadly thing.

Drying for hours on these highways, the rice is liberally dosed with diesel and gasoline fumes from passing buses, jeepneys, cars and trucks, which is to say, a lethal chemical cocktail. Leading a host of poisons is lead, a powerful neurotoxin, which affects mental development, and may account for the plummeting quality of our politicians and declining test scores of our students.

Powering our militarized 4-wheel drive jeep up steep mountain roads toward the fabled Batad Amphitheatre Rice Terraces, we could not help but run over some of that drying *palay*. So in addition to fuel and lubricant pollutants, we are also spraying every year's rice crop with asbestos particles that continuously abrade from the surface of brake pads and linings of all motor vehicles traversing these areas. If consumed or inhaled, such asbestos particles from common brake linings can produce significant medical problems such as gastrointestinal cancers and pulmonary conditions.

I wonder who would be responsible for addressing a problem like this? Is it the Department of Health? Agriculture? Environment and Natural Resources? Tourism? DILG? DAR? Every year, millions and millions of pesos go into the congressional pork barrel as appropriations for "post-harvesting facilities" but nothing ever happens unless they're double booking such facilities with the other classic pork barrel trough, "farm-to-market roads," in a cruel addition of insult to injury.

We are very good at protesting exotic, boutique dangers, like the overblown and ideologically motivated scare campaign over GMO food risks, and less interested in the mundane and the obvious failures of our own local practices and customs, like the ubiquitous act of drying rice on roadways. Sometimes I wonder if it is the potential for sensationalism and advancing political agendas that some environmental activists and NGOs use as a criteria for selecting their causes.

Screaming headlines

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

LAST week, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao castigated the INQUIRER for its Sunday banner headline "GMA told to ditch Mike." He criticized the newspaper for what he considered a "misleading headline" as it was not supported by a direct quote from the person who supposedly made that statement.

Reacting to Tiglao's criticism, a reader, Thelma Oribello, wrote: "I completely agree with Tiglao about your headline yesterday and also the past two days talking about the coup. I don't see why it merits a headline at all. It looks like there is some truth that the INQUIRER sometimes tend to sensationalize a mere rumor. I will appreciate it if you will exercise some due diligence before you decide what headline to use."

The news about alleged coup plots also rankled President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. She chided the media for giving print and broadcast attention to rumors that tended to show signs of instability in the country's political structure.

I brought to the attention of the editor in chief the letter-complaints I received about the Oct. 24 headline "Coup rumors persist" and Tiglao's pique over the "GMA told to ditch Mike" banner story.

She explained that talks about a power grab had been circulating in the country for the past weeks. She ignored them because rumors of that nature have become common place since Gregorio Honasan started a career of attempting, but always failing, to gain political power through the muzzle of the gun.

Body language

What she initially thought was idle talk proved to be otherwise as events unfolded. First, President Macapagal cut short her trip to China and returned at an ungodly hour. She immediately conferred with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes after deplaning. Whatever they talked about must have been very serious or else she would have waited for the next morning to talk to him.

Then National Security Adviser Roilo Golez was all over the radio spectrum talking about the futility of a coup at this time and the alleged combat training given by a cashiered AFP general to the so-called Urban Poor Liberation Army. Not to be outdone, PNP Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya publicly accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson of being one of the brains behind the plot to oust President Macapagal from office.

In the editor in chief's book, the body language and statements made by the President and key administration officials gave credence to reports that some people were indeed engaged in a conspiracy to unseat her. There was truth, after all, to talks about another power grab.

Working on the principle that the public has the right to be informed of the events that may significantly affect their lives, the editor in chief gave the go-signal for the INQUIRER to report on the rumors. She believed the newspaper would be remiss in its responsibility if it ignored an event that would have made a shambles again of the country's social and economic structures.

Supporting news

With regard to the headline that Tiglao threw a tantrum on, the editor in chief said the call of former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez Jr. to the President to "discard some of her baggage," which includes her husband Mike Arroyo, supported that headline.

In her view, Enriquez's standing as a former alter ego of ex-President Fidel Ramos, who is one of the staunchest supporters of President Macapagal, justified giving prominence to that "baggage dumping" exhortation. It is for this reason that the drop head of the banner was "FVR budget chief airs curious call."

The "curious call" phrase is aimed at alerting the readers to the fact that the plea did not come simply come from the opposition but from somebody who had actively participated in earlier moves to oust President Macapagal's predecessor from the seat she now occupies.

On the question of why the headline used the word "told" rather than "urged," which was what Enriquez actually said, the editor in chief explained that the headline space cannot accommodate the latter word. The word "told" was the best word available to closely describe Enriquez's statement without the headline spilling out of the page.

When asked why the particular paragraph about Mike Arroyo's ditching was, contrary to journalistic rules, placed somewhere in the middle of the news and not at the beginning (or lead) of the report, she conceded that that should not have been the case. That paragraph should have been placed right below the subhead so that the readers could get to the meat of the news right away.

She explained that due to time constraints, as the deadline to put the newspaper to bed was getting close, she failed to rearrange the paragraphs so that the specific reference to Mike Arroyo would have been "upgraded" to the lead portion of the news.

Evaluation

I agree with the editor in chief's action to break the news about the coup rumors. It was clear from the way the President and key security officials acted days before the INQUIRER reported the plot (and after) that there was more to it than just idle talk.

If the rumors where simply just that, then how do we explain the fact that the President cut short her China trip, the anti-coup task force was immediately remobilized and the alleged chair of the suspected lead group (the Young Officers Union) was summoned to Malacañang for an intimate talk with the President?

A possible power grab attempt by some people in uniform is something the public has a right to know. Such a move would have a significant impact on their lives. To ignore the rumors is no different from putting one's head in the sand, hoping that the problem will go away by itself.

The analogy that comes close to the situation had the INQUIRER ignored the coup rumors is the way radio and television stations acted when Ninoy Aquino was brought to the cemetery after his brutal murder on Aug. 23, 1983—not one of the stations reported on the millions of Filipinos who jammed the roads to greet his funeral cortege.

By reporting on the coup talks, the President was given the opportunity to deal with the problem head-on and, in the process, was able to assure a jittery public that, to use the shopworn phrase, "everything is under control."

However, with regard to the "baggage-dumping" headline that Tiglao went ballistic about, I have some misgivings about the choice of words in the headline. I think the word "told" is not the appropriate term to describe the call made by Enriquez.

The word "told" gives the impression of Enriquez giving orders to the President to dump the people, including her husband, who are causing her political problems. Not only do I find that word out of character for the soft-spoken former budget official, it somehow diminished the dignity and prestige of the highest office of the land.

Understandably, "urged" or "asked" poses space problems for the headline. It is in situations like these that the imagination or creativity of journalists should come into play. Perhaps, a direct quote from Enriquez that fits into the limited space could have been used instead. Or the big colorful picture that dominated the front page could have been cropped to allow for a headline consisting of two lines that would have captured the call in the manner it was actually made.

The principle of noblesse oblige applies to the INQUIRER.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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LETTERS

Ramos had a good anti-poverty strategy

THE NATIONAL Anti-Poverty Commission does not have a viable poverty reduction program. Neither do the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank or the United Nations Development Program.

Officially, there are now more than 31 million Filipinos who are poor. The situation is likely to worsen.

The best poverty reduction strategy so far was that of President Fidel V. Ramos but which he was unable to implement because it was conceptualized during the latter part of his term. The Ramos strategy has become more relevant now.—**J.R. KATIGBAK, 40 Panay Ave., Quezon City**

How about the Candaba Swamp?

THE GARBAGE situation in Metro Manila has been officially declared a disaster. The alarming threat to the health and lives of the residents is real and an urgent solution to the issue is compelling.

Everybody must now rise and share whatever idea he has to help alleviate the sufferings of the populace. I am proposing my two cents' worth for whatever merit it may have. I maintain that if we have the political will, what I propose will be like hitting two or three birds with one stone.

I am referring to a wasteland in Pampanga whose potentials have not been harnessed. This part of the public domain is named Candaba Swamp. For a few months of the year, people nearby farm on it but the rest of the year it is filled with water. Now that the rainy season is almost over, it is best to think of reclaiming it with sanitized rubbish using fumigation facilities and covering it with lahar and soil.

The Candabaweños may initially not like to have their neighborhood turned into a dump but if they are given incentives, they may be persuaded to relent especially if they are made to understand that they will be helping their own *cabalen*, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. This project, if health safeguards are taken, may yet be one of the biggest legacies of our President when the swamp is transformed into a commercial, industrial and residential estate in Central Luzon.

What are some incentives to compensate for the inconveniences that the residents may suffer?

First, perhaps, should be the assurance that every landowner there will be given a piece of land, say, 120 square meters, or a free residential unit in a building if the national government may decide later to build a residential area there.

Second, the people should be given exclusive rights to control the business of recycling the refuse or the establishment of a fertilizer plant.

Third, landowners should be employed to ensure that unloading of rubbish be done in the proper places and to check the actual number of trucks entering the site to guard against irregularities on ghost deliveries, unauthorized trips by dump trucks, etc.

The only drawback I see is that after making a census of the legitimate residents of the area for possible award of lots in the future, outsiders may start squatting on the site and the problem of ejection arises.

Be that as it may, the idea is feasible and could just be the best way to combat the terror that is known as garbage.—**EMILIO E. LUGUE JR., Apalit, Pampanga**

Do wage increases really help?

THE GOVERNMENT once again increased the minimum wage. The Philippines is probably the only country in Asia, if not in the entire world, that keeps this highly inflationary and disastrous policy of continuously increasing its minimum wage. In 1986 our minimum wage was only P40, with the latest increase it is now P280, an increase of approximately 700 percent.

We should ask ourselves if this policy uplifted the lives of our workers. Did this upgrade their standard of living? Have they become more prosperous because of this policy? On the contrary, this policy has been a total disaster for the country. We now have the highest minimum wage in Southeast Asia, but at the same time we have one of the highest percentage of unemployed and underemployed, resulting in a 40-percent level of poverty, also one of the highest in Asia. Perhaps only Afghanistan has a higher poverty rate.

The reason for our high unemployment and poverty rate is very simple. Every time we increase our minimum wage, the cost of our products become uncompetitive, forcing many companies to close or downsize their operations resulting in thousands of employees losing their jobs. Many of our industries, particularly export industries, have been wiped out because of these continuous increases in our minimum wage. Many garment export companies have been forced to close, in fact, our toy export companies have been totally wiped out. Even our handicraft manufacturers are having a tough time competing with other countries.

Many foreign companies are turned off by our continuous increases in the minimum wage as well as the activism of our local unions so few put up companies here in our country. What is tragic is that international surveys indicate that our workers are the best in the region and the quality of our local executives are also tops.

The only way a country can become prosperous is through the creation of jobs. I am so disappointed with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who approved the minimum wage increase, totally ignoring the advice of her economic advisers. And with the present worldwide economic crises at that.

Instead of sticking to the right economic policies, the President is politicking. Her wishy-washy attitude will not get her reelected. As for Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas who kept on lobbying for an increase in the minimum wage, she forgot that her job is to create employment, not unemployment.

We should stop increasing our minimum wage. Let's go back to the Collective Bargaining Agreement so that only the companies which can afford to implement it will give increases. These across the board increases are killing us.—**ROBERT ARENAS, Tektite Towers, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

Quiz shows, big money

WITHOUT doubt, the recent surge of million-peso quiz game shows on primetime TV is changing the face of local viewing fare. TV stations are trying to "outgame" one another in a bid to wrestle viewership and advertising for themselves. All evidence point to the quiz shows' success. Most TV viewers have dropped soap operas and corny sitcoms in favor of the more exciting, more interactive, more action-oriented quiz shows, thereby sending the various networks huffing and puffing in an attempt to rescue their suddenly low-rating sitcoms and other shows. The almost year-old "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire," hosted by Christopher de Leon, is cornering the ratings. Quickly following its footsteps are "The Weakest Link" and "Game Ka Na Ba!" hosted by Edu Manzano and Kris Aquino, respectively.

At least for these three quiz shows now already airing, perhaps one positive outcome derived is that viewers who used to just sit in front of the idiot box only to be tortured by oftentimes lame scripts of sitcoms and soapies, have discovered the fun in learning new facts about things.—**MCS ABIS, chromecat@hotmail. com**

Strengthen our anti-terrorist laws

TERRORISM is a threat we have to face today. Terrorist attacks can happen anywhere, anyplace, anytime. Our country is presently confronting a very notorious terrorist group, the Abu Sayyaf. Terrorists and all lawless elements threaten our country's peaceful environment and democracy.

Perhaps it is now time for our lawmakers to think of laws that will combat terrorism. These anti-terrorist laws will help thwart terrorist acts which are now presumably being hatched by those who espouse terrorism and who support Osama bin Laden's call for "jihad." We will have to unite and help each other against the barbarity of terrorism. Each one of us plays a crucial role in this battle. Terrorism must be given the fight it deserves.

At present our police and military authorities cannot thwart terrorism with very weak anti-terrorism laws. Our lawmakers should strengthen the legal arsenal of our law enforcers against terrorism. We need stronger and harsher anti-terrorism laws to help our law enforcers protect our people. Congress should act fast before it is too late.—**ARBITO M. SENDOZA, M.D., Mount Carmel Subdivision, Quezon City**

Seeking Pag-IBIG membership

THIS refers to my application for membership in the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG) dated Oct. 31, 1996.

I paid P1,920 (Official Receipt No. 5831610) for my membership last Oct. 31, 1996 under my former employer, Mark's Kambingan Sing-Along, 681 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City, managed by Roberto L. Layague with SSS No. 060273296-7.

I wrote and followed up with the Pag-IBIG office. My letter was received by Jun Roldan last July 29, 1997. On Sept. 23, 1997, I filed another letter which was noted by a certain Jocelyn. She informed me to come back the following year, 1998. Again I visited the office and a certain Marjorie informed me to come back after a month for verification.

I'm just wondering why issuing an ID is taking the Pag-IBIG this long? It is so frustrating and so I decided not to continue paying my membership dues.

But I hope this time, my Pag-IBIG ID is ready for pickup. I am now 60 years old and I have to ask for my retirement benefits or a refund of my payments.—**ROBERTO G. TORRES, 218 I. Lopez St., Mandaluyong City**

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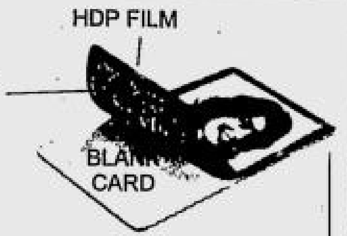

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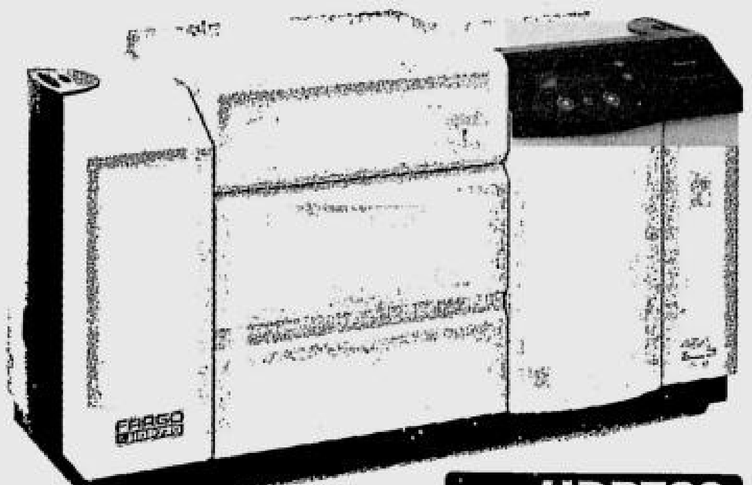

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Can zero waste for Manila work?

IT'S clear to see from your editorial "Compost City" of Oct. 7, 2001 that as with many cities, Manila is in the grip of a waste crisis. Almost universally cities around the world are failing to deal with the real cause of waste—unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.

It's as if our grossly inefficient industrial system is sacrosanct and must not be challenged. Instead we try to "fix" the waste crisis with solutions that only create more problems. New studies on landfills indicate that they will need managing for up to 1,000 years. The US EPA states that all landfill liners will eventually leak. People living close to landfills have a higher risk of getting cancer as the landfills belch leachate into the groundwater and gases into the air. Incineration technologies are no better. They create deadly dioxins and other emissions. They also lower property prices, and have dangerous residues that still require land filling. Perhaps the biggest problem is that both technologies destroy valuable resources that could instead be used to create jobs and business opportunities.

Your editorial made a good point about the dangers of exploiting the next fashionable environmental trend such as zero waste without really understanding the implications—zero waste deserves another look. Zero Waste is a new design principle for an industrial system out of control—a brand for a basket of exciting new concepts and technologies that if applied in unison will enable dramatic waste reduction outcomes to be achieved in a very short time.

It is both an end of pipe solution and design principle. It seeks to recover and recycle waste materials in the community, but more importantly, to design waste out of the system from the beginning of the production chain. Already, industrial designers are creating manufacturing processes that have no waste outputs and products that can be disassembled at the end of their lives and reintegrated back into society or harmlessly into nature.

Humans are the only species where the concept of waste exists. If we want a long-term permanent place for the human species, then we must quickly get on a program that nature has perfected over millions of years.

Zero waste is the vision and strategy we need for rapid change with the power to unify and rally people around a radical idea—a sustainable society that has no waste.

Like any large city, Manila could easily reduce its waste by 50 percent within three to four years—and achieve even more dramatic results in five years—but it will take vision and commitment.

I'm sure that Manila is doing some of these things already. Few places though have applied all the strategies at once. Manila could become a center of excellence for zero waste and at the same time create thousands of new jobs and businesses—and do it all for the same money it is spending on disposal technologies.—**WARREN SNOW, co-founder and trustee, Zero Waste New Zealand, P.O. Box 33 1695 Takapuna, Auckland 1330, New Zealand**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

TIRADE INCLUDES U.N.

Bin Laden lashes out in new video

THE SKY may hold an answer: A young Afghan boy clutching a US food aid package bag looks up to the sky as US fighter jets bomb Taliban positions near Deshitiqala in northern Afghanistan Nov. 3. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—Osama bin Laden on Saturday made his strongest appeal to Muslims to join a holy war against the West and denounced those who support Washington as traitors to Islam in a statement the White House said showed his isolation from the rest of the world.

In the United States, President George W. Bush called an anthrax mail scare sweeping the nation "a second wave of terrorist attacks." Four Americans have died in the anthrax attacks, which the administration says could be linked to Bin Laden.

With no clear US victories after a month of military action, Bush urged Americans to be patient with the campaign to punish Afghanistan's ruling Taliban for harboring bin Laden and vowed to get the man Washington blames for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States that killed almost 4,800 people.

On the battlefield, opponents of the Taliban made advances on the key crossroads town of Mazar-i-Sharif but there were varying accounts of the crash of a US helicopter and the loss of a $3.2 million remote-controlled Predator drone on Friday.

Looking pale and becoming emotional toward the end of the televised statement, Bin Laden, defiant in military fatigues and with an AK-47 assault rifle by his side, appealed to the world's 1.2 billion Muslims to join him in a religious war against the "infidel" Christians and Jews.

"The leaders of the region are shunning and shying away from supporting their brothers," the Saudi-born militant said in the statement broadcast by Qatar's Arabic al-Jazeera satellite television channel. "What is worse is that they are preventing Muslims from supporting their brothers.

"It is a certain fact that Bush carried the cross high," Bin Laden said, referring to the Christian symbol carried by medieval European crusaders in religious wars against Muslims.

"Whoever stands behind Bush has committed an act that stands as an annulment of their Islam," he said. "This war is primarily a religious war."

White House spokesperson Anne Womack dismissed the statement as an act of desperation, saying: "This is more propaganda that shows how isolated bin Laden is from the rest of the world."

Bush, himself a practicing Christian, has been at pains to maintain support among moderate Muslims by assuring them the United States is hunting down bin Laden and that the campaign in no way represents a war against Islam.

Aside from seeking to tap the emotions of Muslims angry about Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, Bin Laden's statement came ahead of Islam's holy fasting month of Ramadan later this month.

His comments were laced with Koranic verses and the sayings of Mohammed, his clearest effort since the September attacks to strictly define the Afghanistan conflict in religious terms. He said: "Rise, in support of your religion. Islam is calling you." *Reuters*

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Malcolm Theater, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City

Tuesday, 20 November 2001
1:30 - 5:00 p.m. MANTLES OF AUTHORITY IN CIVIL LAW
Resource Person: PROF. ELIZABETH A. PANGALANGAN
University of the Philippines
College of Law

Wednesday, 21 November 2001
1:30 - 5:30 p.m. EXCEPTIONS TO THE INDEFEASIBILITY RULE (LATEST JURISPRUDENCE)
Resource Person: PROF. RAMON S. CASANOVA
University of the Philippines
College of Law

Thursday, 22 November 2001
1:30 - 5:00 p.m. LEGITIMES-CONCEPTS, PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS
Resource Person: PROF. RUBEN E. BALANE
University of the Philippines
College of Law

Friday, 23 November 2001
1:30 - 5:00 p.m. THE INTERPLAY OF QUASIDELICTS AND CONTRACTS
Resource Person: DEAN ED VINCENT S. ALBANO
University of Perpetual Help System - Biñan
College of Law

Saturday, 24 November 2001
8:30 - 11:30 a.m. REMEDIAL LAW CONCERNS IN CIVIL LAW
Resource Person: HON. HILARION L. AQUINO
Associate Justice
Court of Appeals

REGISTRATION FEE: Php1,200.00
For details, pls. call 929-7137 or 434-9531

New anthrax traces found in New Jersey

WASHINGTON—The anthrax scare spread further late Saturday as deadly spores were discovered at yet another mail distribution center in New Jersey, while investigators in Washington studied a suspicious letter sent to the US Treasury Department.

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services announced that one of the environmental samples taken by the FBI in the Bellmawr Mail Distribution Center last Wednesday came back positive.

A suburb of the city Camden, New Jersey, Bellmawr is located just across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, which means that after outbreaks in New York and Washington, anthrax now has penetrated a third major metropolitan area.

All employees of the facility have been offered a 10-day course of antibiotics as a precaution, the department said.

Health officials focused their attention on the Bellmawr center after a Delaware resident who works there came down with skin anthrax, a less deadly form of the disease.

The patient, whose identity has not been released, is said to be recovering.

The Bellmawr case brings to three the number of New Jersey postal facilities affected by anthrax.

Earlier, traces of the deadly bacteria were discovered at the main Princeton post office and at a mail processing center in Hamilton Township, near the state capital of Trenton.

So far, 17 cases of anthrax have been confirmed in the United States since the Sept. 11 attack, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Five other individuals in New York and New Jersey were under medical observation on suspicion they may have the deadly disease, the centers said. *AFP*

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Taliban divinely punished for destroying Buddha statues, Hindu leaders say

NEW DELHI—The US bombs falling on Afghanistan's ruling Taliban are divine punishment for their destruction of the ancient Bamiyan Buddha statues, Hindu and Buddhist leaders said here Sunday.

Acharya Giriraj Kishore, head of the right-wing Hindu movement Vishwa Hindu Parishad, said the US-led campaign on Afghanistan was "godly punishment."

"If you trouble God and cause harm to him, He is not going to let you live in peace," Kishore told the Press Trust of India.

Lama Lobzang, a leader in the predominantly Buddhist area of Ladakh in Kashmir, said that when the Bamiyan Buddhas were destroyed the Buddhist community had a "strong feeling that the Taliban regime will pay for it."

"Our religion prescribes that one will reap what one has sowed and we strongly believe in that. This is the classic example in that context," he said.

The Taliban in March reduced to rubble the two Buddha statues, the larger of which stood 55 meters, with 20 days of dynamite, rockets and tank shells.

The Taliban said they destroyed the 1,500-year-old giant Buddhas because they were idols.

The United States has been bombing Afghanistan for four weeks after the Taliban refused to hand over Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, accused of masterminding the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington that left close to 5,000 dead. *AFP*

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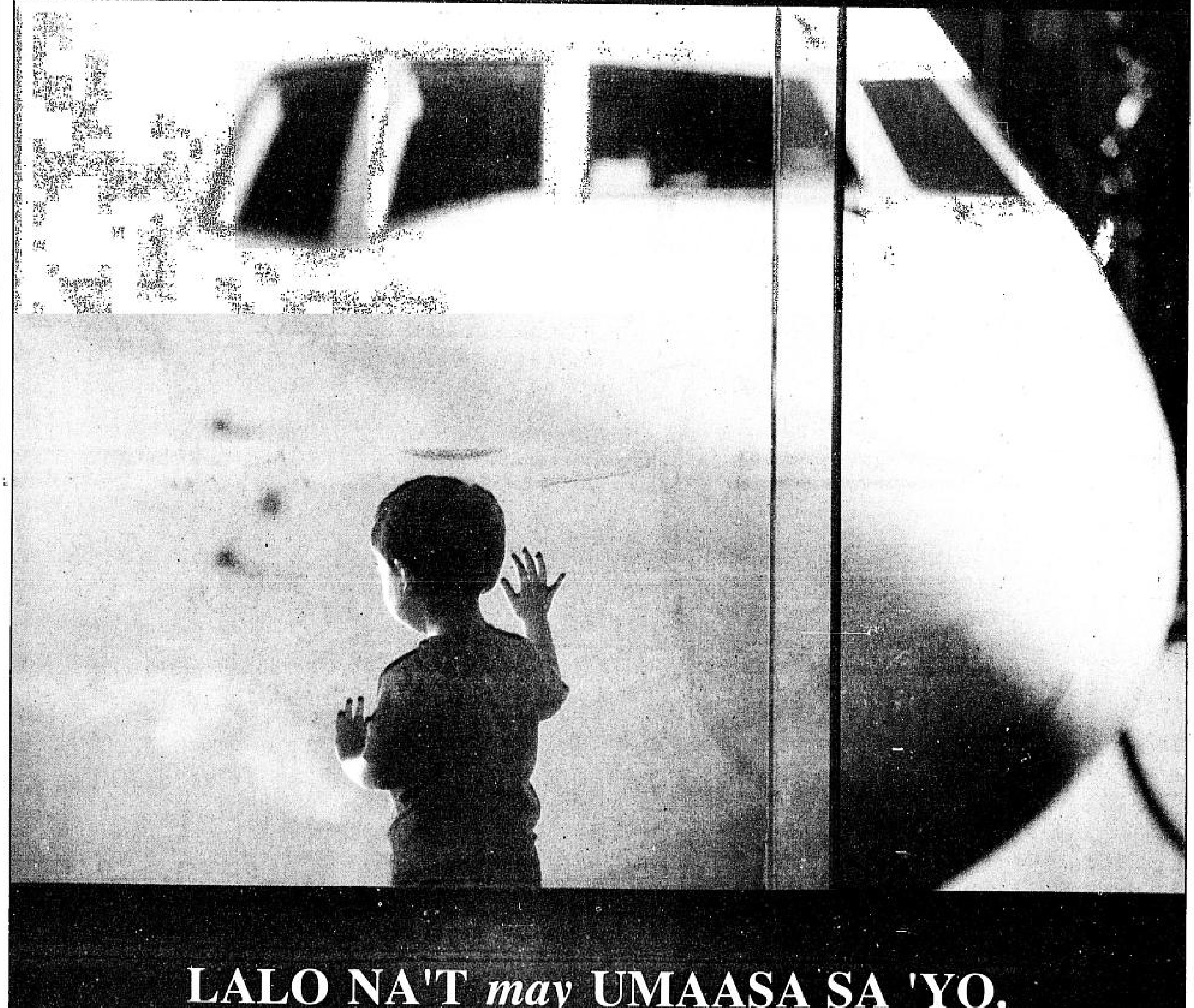

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Major ground push imminent, reports say

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Secret CIA NY office destroyed

WASHINGTON—A secret CIA office in the World Trade Center complex that spied on UN diplomats and handled anti-terrorism cases was destroyed in the Sept. 11 terror attack, the New York Times reported Sunday, citing government officials.

The Central Intelligence Agency office, which operated behind a false front, was located at 7 World Trade Center, one of the smaller office towers destroyed when the twin towers collapsed after being hit by hijacked passenger planes, officials told the Times.

All agency employees were evacuated safely, the officials said. *AFP*

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7:30PM - 9:00PM

Saturday, 10 November 2001
9:00AM - 4:00PM

Seminar:
Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, Makati City
Friday, 09 November 2001
6:00PM - 7:30PM

CEBU*

Open Info Day:
Function Room 2
Waterfront Hotel,
Lahug, Cebu City

Sunday, 11 November 2001
9:00AM - 2:00PM
3:30PM - 5:00PM

Seminar:
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Lahug, Cebu City
2:00PM - 3:30PM

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Thais also forced to be WWII sex slaves

BANGKOK—A new study has uncovered the first evidence that Thai women were used as sex slaves by the Japanese military during World War II, alongside some 200,000 other young Asian women, a report said Sunday.

The Sunday Nation newspaper said the report, sponsored by the Women Study Center at Chiang Mai University, discovered that the brutal practice of forcing "comfort women" to work in Japanese army brothels extended to Thailand.

The author Sopida Virakultewan told the daily that she interviewed several witnesses who confirmed the abuse did take place.

"There was a missing link when this (comfort women) network was earlier exposed, to the extent that many women in Korea, China, Taiwan, the Philippines and Indonesia were forced to provide sex services to Japanese armies," Sopida said.

Korean and Chinese women have led the charge for an apology and compensation from the Japanese government for their wartime suffering.

"(But) here in Thailand we have had scant information about it despite the fact that Japanese forces occupied our country for three or four years," Sopida said.

The study found that Thai women traveled from "recruitment centers" in Bangkok to the western province of Kanchanaburi, where the Japanese army was supervising the construction of a railway to Burma.

Thai pimps helped funnel women to the military camps, which were made famous in the film "The Bridge Over the River Kwai."

One 75-year-old former brothel keeper recalled he would charge the Japanese 20 baht (45 cents) a time, about 40 times the rate for local men.

Sopida said the "comfort women" network in Thailand depended heavily on the local prostitution trade.

"These Thai women, despite their background, were however compelled to serve Japanese soldiers exclusively. It was a similar type of sexual slavery," she said.

Historians say at least 200,000 young women—mostly Korean, but also from Taiwan, China, the Philippines and Indonesia—were forced to serve as sex slaves in Japanese army brothels during World War II.

A number of former comfort women have filed court cases in Japan against the Japanese government but the courts have consistently refused to rule in favor of direct compensation.

The Japanese government has also avoided volunteering direct compensation for former sex slaves, instead setting up a private group—the Asian Women's Fund—to offer payouts.

Many women, however, have refused to accept money from this group because it does not amount to formal compensation from Tokyo accompanied by an apology. *AFP*

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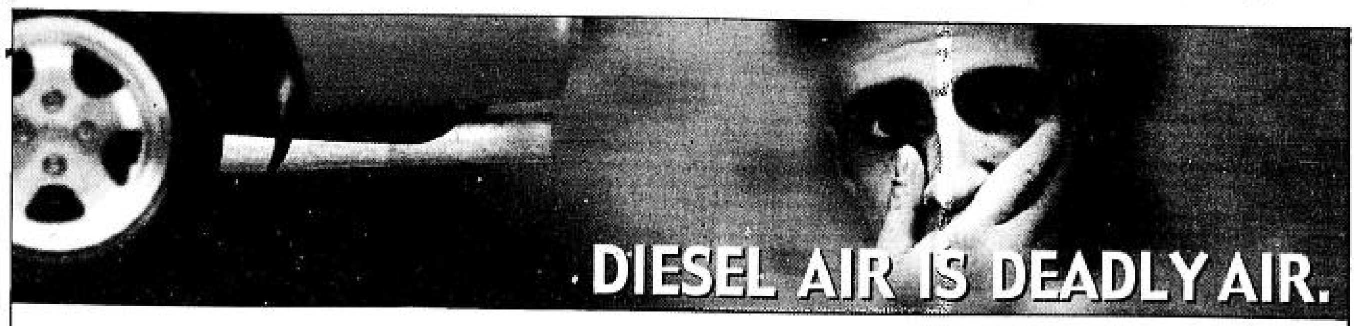

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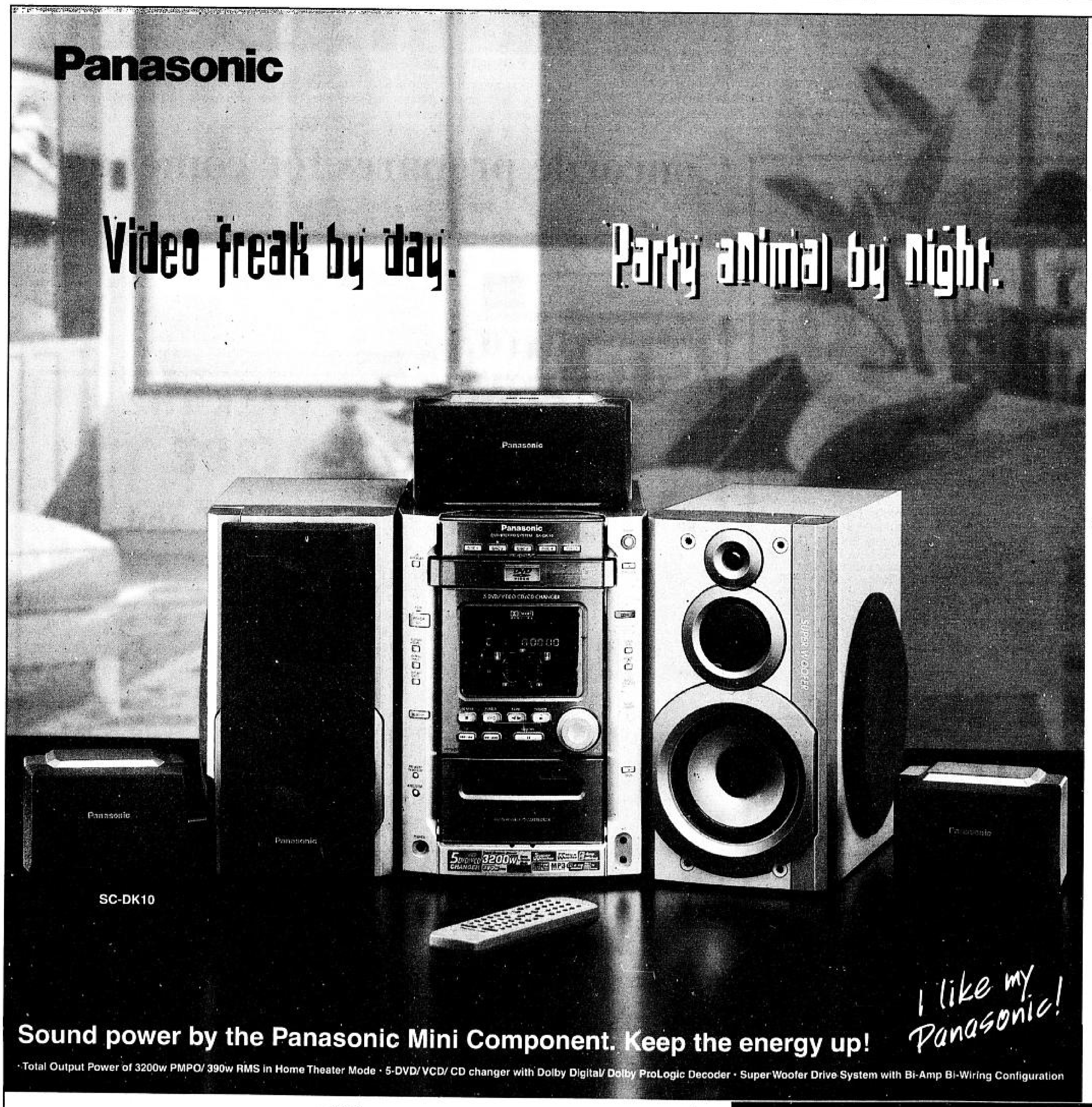

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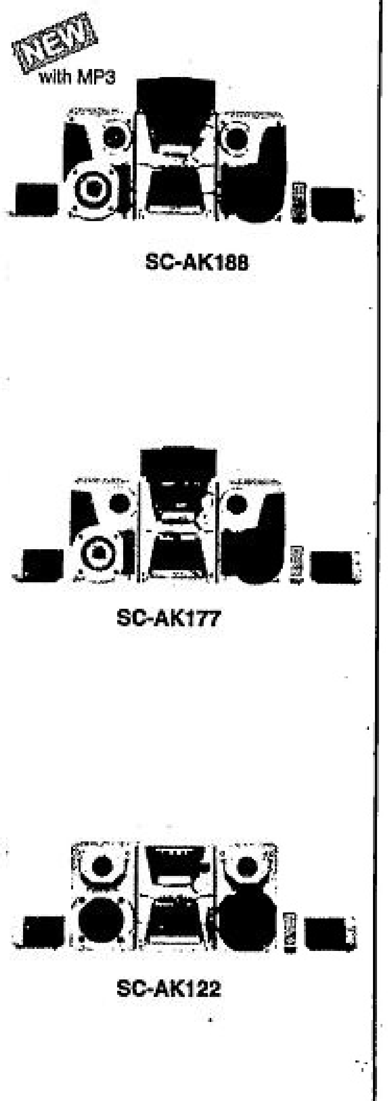

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Thais in uproar as pol's son evades slay rap

BANGKOK—Thailand's failure to apprehend the military son of a politician who is the prime suspect in a murder case had the kingdom Sunday in an uproar after it exposed flaws in Thai democracy.

Sub-Lieutenant Doungchalerm Yubamrung, an army officer and the son of a prominent member of the coalition government, has been on the run for a week since a police officer was shot dead in cold blood at a Bangkok nightclub.

Investigators say they have witnesses who will swear that Doungchalerm, a notorious troublemaker whose late-night antics have frequently made newspaper headlines, fired the fatal shot after a heated argument.

But his father Chalerm Yubamrung swears his son is innocent, and pins the blame on a mysterious "friend" who was also named as the guilty party in previous violent scuffles involving Doungchalerm and his two older brothers.

The extraordinary case has roused a strong reaction from the Thai public and political commentators, who are infuriated at the prospect of the scion of an influential and feared family escaping justice.

"The whole world is laughing at us," the Nation newspaper said Sunday, saying the authorities had treated the case with "kid gloves" thanks to Chalerm's extensive connections among the government and the military.

"To the public, the whole thing smacks of a sham, or a broad-based conspiracy and a charade which makes the government look bad due to the failure of the legal apparatus," it said in an opinion piece.

The Bangkok Post said the scandal was "the last straw" for a country long innured to instances where privilege and position are used to shield the guilty.

"This is a dark side to Thai society that cannot be denied," it said Sunday. "There is concern that dark political influences will again extend their hands to protect the Yubamrung son."

The Thai-language Matichon newspaper said the case had lifted a thin veneer of democracy to expose the "mafia families" which control Thai society and government.

"(Some citizens) wish they had not been born in Thailand, so sick are they of hearing about the evil deeds committed by influential politicians and their family members that go unpunished," it said.

Apart from the chorus of condemnatory editorials, Internet bulletin boards have been flooded with messages by ordinary Thais who are enraged over the authorities' failure to arrest Doungchalerm.

"If they can get away with this, it will mean Thailand no longer belongs to Thai people," said one message on the popular pantip.com which reported an unprecedented reaction to the events of the past week.

AFP

Sharon set to oversee military pullout from Palestinian areas

JERUSALEM—Israel appeared Sunday to be preparing to withdraw its military from Palestinian-controlled areas which it entered two weeks ago, amid tentative signs of a revival in the peace process.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced in an interview that he had cancelled planned trips to Washington and London in order to oversee the troop withdrawals in what he said he regarded as "war" situation.

"We are in a war here, a special kind of war," Sharon told Newsweek magazine in an interview for Monday's edition.

"I have decided to continue with the redeployment of our forces. What might result is a situation in which terror bursts out. I want to be here to see how it develops."

A spokesperson from Sharon's office said Saturday that Sharon had postponed a Nov. 11 trip to Washington when he was to have met President George W. Bush, as well as a prior stopover in London for talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

When asked if an Israeli pullout from Palestinian self-rule areas was a result of US pressure, Sharon responded: "I think the administration's wish is that we move out—but we wanted to move out."

Sharon sent tanks and troops to Palestinian self-rule areas after the Oct. 17 assassination of his tourism minister, Rehavam Zeevi, by a hardline Palestinian group. Some 60 Palestinians have been killed since the partial reoccupation of six West Bank cities by Israeli troops.

The Israeli premier said that, for now, his government did not have a partner with which it could negotiate a peaceful resolution to the current crisis.

"If (Palestinian leader Yasser) Arafat stops terror, we'll negotiate with him," he said flatly.

While Sharon was not ready to talk with Arafat, his more dovish Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was.

Peres and Arafat, who shared the 1994 Nobel peace prize, met privately in Spain on Saturday, for the second time in 24 hours, but there was no public indication the encounters had helped spur the Middle East peace process.

After their meetings, on the sidelines of an international forum in Majorca, Peres and Arafat each spelled out the views which have kept the sides locked in a bitter year-long conflict which has claimed more than 900 lives.

Arafat appealed to Israel "to withdraw its troops from areas under Palestinian sovereignty, raise the blockade imposed for the last 14 months and suspend its policy of murdering Palestinian activists."

"We are completely ready to begin serious negotiations starting now," repeated Arafat. But Peres replied: "You must understand there are limits to what we can do. We want to be your neighbors and friends, but we don't want to commit suicide."

AFP

Labor meet urges global jobs rescue

GENEVA—A UN-sponsored labor meeting Saturday urged a combined effort to save jobs at risk following the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

"The loss of nearly half a million jobs in the United States in the past month shows that the tidal wave has started to move and will end up on everyone's shores," said Bill Brett, vice president of the governing body of the International Labor Organization.

A resolution passed by the three-day Global Employment Forum said a major trade meeting in Doha, Qatar, next week should set the stage for recovery.

Some 700 representatives of government, business and labor who attended the forum had heard predictions that 24 million people could lose their jobs as a result of the global downturn accelerated by the terrorist attacks.

The forum urged the trade ministers meeting starting Nov. 9 to extend trade opportunities to developing countries, which the forum said would create jobs.

"The Doha Conference is expected to open up international markets to the developing countries," Brett said. "Failure to do that will be a considerable setback to globalization and an open market."

Delegates to the forum said there should be a global stimulus package to boost employment and reduce poverty.

"We all feel very strongly a sense of urgency," said ILO Director General Juan Somavia.

He said the ILO would join with the World Trade Organization, other UN bodies and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in trying to create jobs.

AP

MERI KURISIMA ALREADY? REUTERS

Christmas lights in the shape of a snowman and reindeer attract two girls Nov. 3 in rainy Tokyo, which generally does not celebrate Christmas. The illuminations were lit on Thursday in hopes of attracting recession-wary shoppers for year-end bargains.

Concorde prepares for comeback

PARIS—The supersonic Concorde jet is preparing for a daring commercial comeback on Wednesday, more than 15 months after a crash which killed 113 people threw its future into jeopardy.

An Air France Concorde is scheduled to leave Charles de Gaulle airport north of here for a three-hour, 55-minute run to New York, arriving about an hour before it left, in local times.

The flight plan parallels that of AF 4590, a chartered Air France Concorde which crashed on July 25, 2000 shortly after taking off from Paris in flames with 109 people on board.

In addition to the mostly German tourists, four people were killed on the ground when the jet slammed into a hotel in a desperate attempt to reach Le Bourget airport, a few minutes away.

Also On Wednesday, a British Airways Concorde will take off from London's Heathrow airport an hour after its Air France sister plane, which the BA plane will join in New York.

A second BA Concorde, chartered by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, is to leave London a few hours after the first, and fly to Washington.

Neither flight from London is considered a commercial service however, since BA sent out invitations to media and business leaders who had used Concorde regularly in the past.

BA will begin commercial services on Friday.

AFP

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   d. 177 linear meters of new fiberglass gutters
   e. 118 linear meters of repair of seismic gutter
   f. 153.40 M² of wooden sidings to be replaced with metal spandrel
   g. Touch-up/repair work of immediate areas of works that may be affected as a result of the project execution.
3. Applications for prequalification are open to all firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures, but only those companies meeting ADB's minimum requirements will be successful.
4. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4223N at the above address from **7-9 November 2001 (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)** upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable nominal fee of Pesos: Two Hundred (P200) at the ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
5. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant. The ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification, and to postpone issuance of bid documents. Only prequalified companies considered by ADB will be contacted.

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Nov. 13, 2001 (Tuesday)
EFFECTIVE INFLUENCING SKILLS
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Nov. 14, 2001 (Wednesday)
EFFECTIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION TECHNIQUES
Josie Santamaria, President, Career Systems, Inc., will talk about the nature of conflict and attitudes and behaviors of people in conflict, identify the best way to manage conflict, outline the steps in conflict resolution, and teach you how to apply these techniques in your particular situation.

Nov. 15, 2001 (Thursday)
MANAGING RISKS IN LIFE AND AT WORK
David Jacob, President, Marsh Philippines, which provides risk management services, will talk about the kinds of risks facing companies and people at work, the values and attitudes towards risks, and the ways companies and individuals can lessen the risks and its consequences and prepare for worst case scenarios.

All sessions will be conducted from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCIB Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila. Tickets are available at P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (orchestra patron). Early bird discount of 10% shall be given to the first 100 registrants per seminar. Registration fee includes handouts and certificate of completion. Snacks will NOT be served because eating in the auditorium is prohibited.

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

AFP says programs for former rebels failed

BAGUIO CITY—After more than seven years and P11 million later, the Armed Forces of the Philippines thinks some former New People's Army rebels are taking them for a ride.

Lt. Col. Juanito Dalmas, commanding officer of the Army's 17th Infantry Battalion based in Abra, said the "dole-out mentality" among former rebels is pulling back the gains of the government's program for rebel returnees.

Dalmas recently presented the Army's report on the Cordillera's National Program for Unification and Development (NPUD) to the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

"The persistence of the dole-out mentality among the former rebels as manifested by their unwillingness to affiliate in cooperatives and to pay their loans, leave the members of the provincial technical working group and coop officials few choices, if none at all, in affiliating them," Dalmas said.

"This results in non-viability and unsustainability of the project and to some extent, the breakdown of cooperatives formed by the former rebels themselves," he said.

From January 1994 to September this year, the NPUD had given 1,198 former NPA rebels more than P9.5 million in business capital.

Each rebel returnee is entitled to P8,000 each in capital loan payable in three years.

Only two rebel returnees availed of the "Balik Gobyerno Program" in Mt. Province, even if the province has a sizable number of present and former NPA rebels, Dalmas said.

Almost half of the beneficiaries, at 503, came from Kalinga, whose three cooperatives were granted P3.736 million in capital for flour milling, rice trading and tricycle operations.

Rebel returnees in Ifugao, Benguet and Apayao settled mostly for hog-fattening projects, while the 10 cooperatives in Abra are into various activities that included jewelry making, fruit and coffee trading and mango spraying.

A little more than 1,000 former rebels also availed of the government's emergency assistance amounting to P1,750 each.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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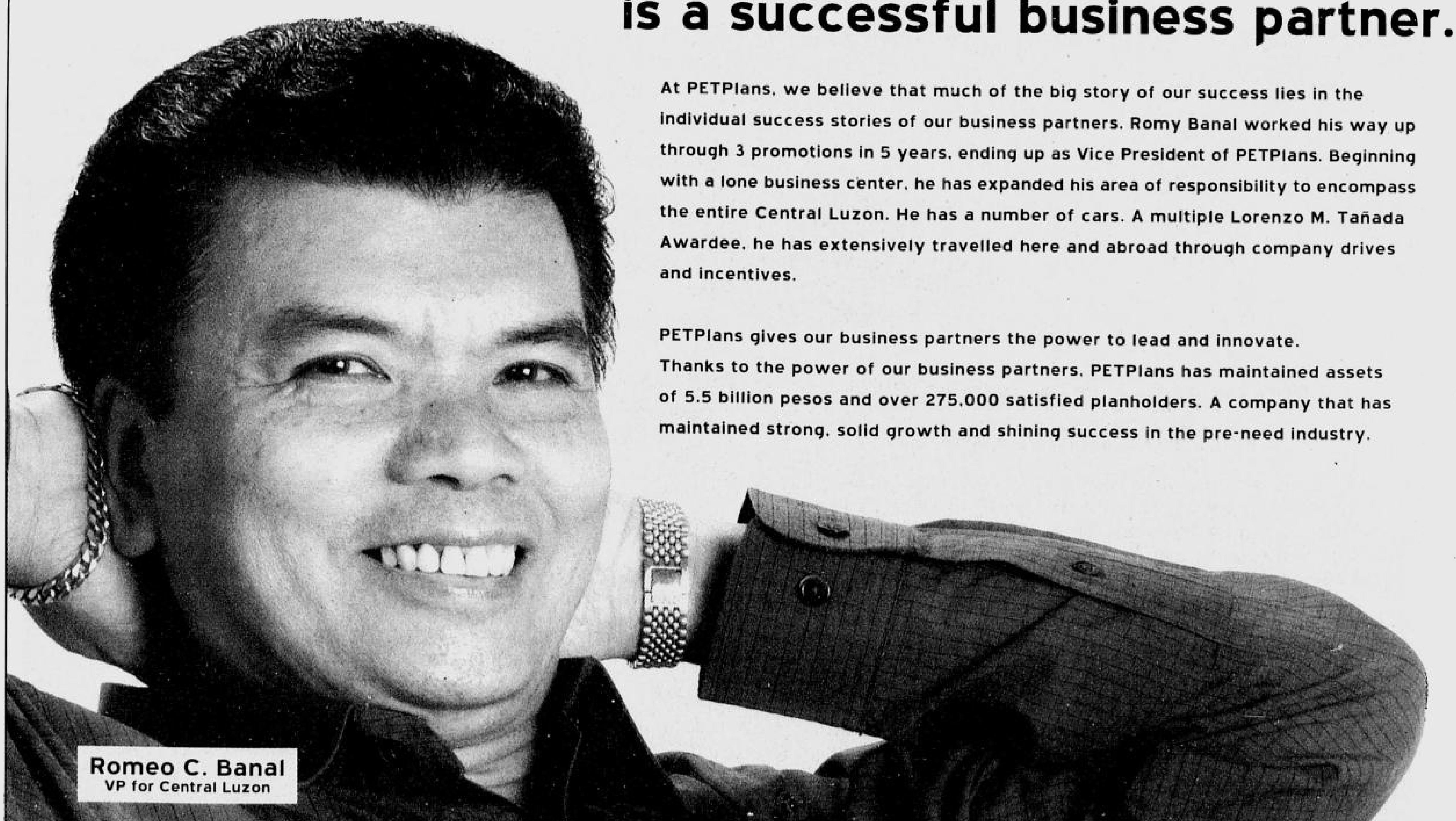

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₱100,000 reward for info on Land Bank heist solution

CEBU CITY--Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña has announced a P100,000 reward for anyone who can give information that will lead to the solution of the P4.1-million robbery of the Land Bank of the Philippines branch here last Oct. 26.

"Right now I can commit P100,000 from my intelligence funds for information leading to the solution of the robbery and (the arrest of) Nodalo specifically," the mayor said.

Osmeña was referring to the arrest of Joel Nodalo alias Tongol, one of the prime suspects in the robbery involving a Land Bank vehicle along P. Del Rosario and D. Jakosalem Streets, located a few meters from the bank's main branch.

A group with links to the Kuratong Baleleng crime gang based in Ozamiz City was believed to have perpetrated the robbery.

Police also suspected that the group had contact from Land Bank because only bank insiders knew that the vehicle was carrying a huge amount of money. The cash was to be delivered to the bank's Mandaue City branch when armed robbers blocked the vehicle around 8:30 a.m. and took off with the money and the firearms of the two security guards on board the bank's vehicle.

Links

Supt. Josephus Angan, deputy director of the Cebu City Police Office, believed that Nodalo and a certain Hector Salcedo were the local contacts of the Kuratong Baleleng group.

Osmeña said the cash reward is intended only for those who have knowledge in the robbery and their information can lead to the solution of the case. The city government is not giving rewards for the arrest of the individual suspects, he clarified.

Angan and Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr., director of the Regional Police Office in Central Visayas, welcomed Osmeña's announcement, saying that giving cash rewards can help in the solution of the case.

They urged other sectors to also pledge an amount for this purpose.

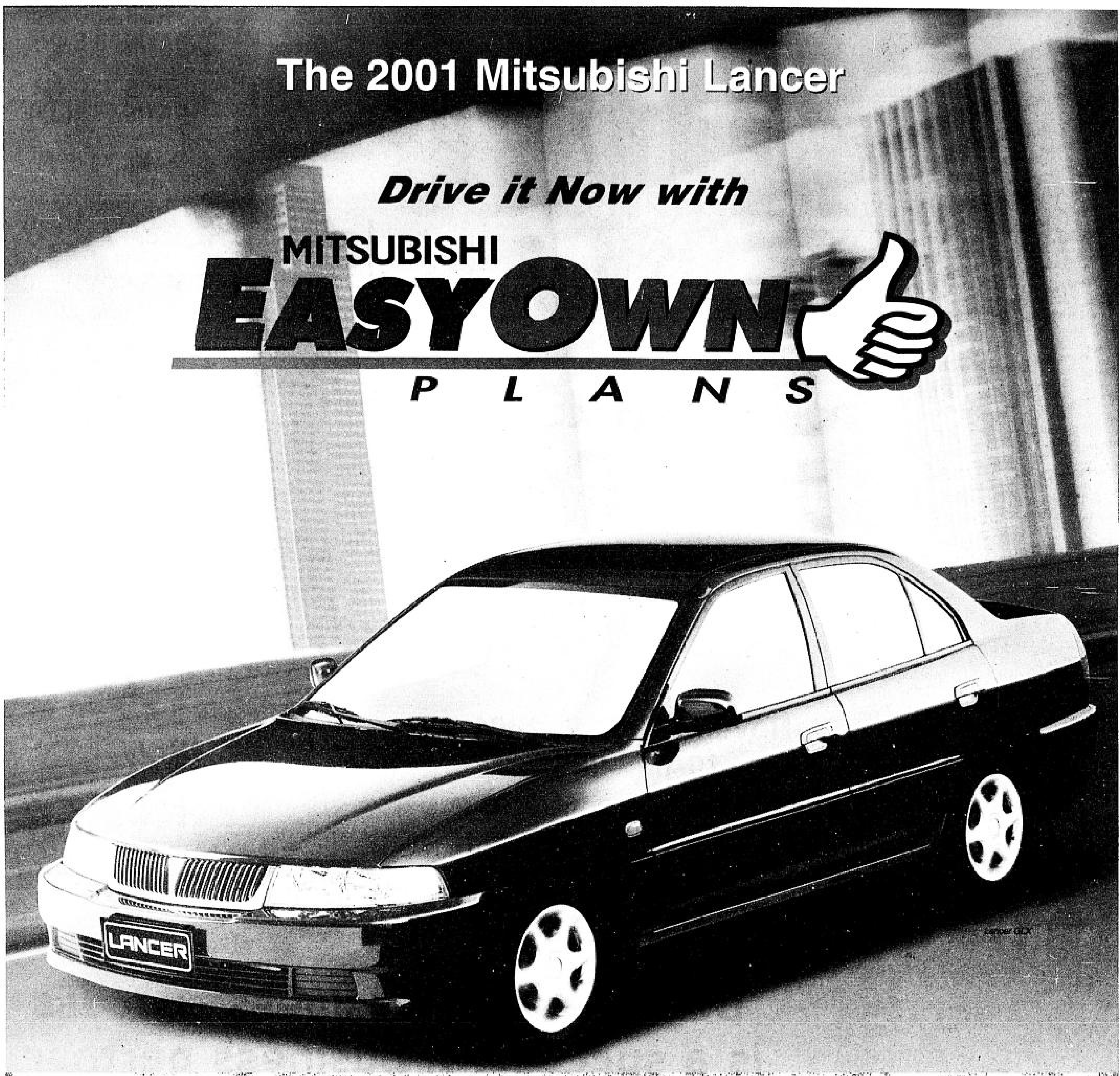
Helpless

Vice Mayor Michael Rama was, however, wary of the mayor's offer of reward. He said the city government had previously given cash rewards for information about the whereabouts of some criminal elements in the city but it has not led to any arrest. He said it would also be an admission of police helplessness in solving the crimes without cash rewards.

Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) president Sabino Dapat also opposed the idea of giving cash rewards.

He said the citizens are obliged to help the police in solving crimes.

But Osmeña defended his decision. "That's not fair (to say that cash reward would not work). If there is a robbery, there are so many people who know. That's why it is also necessary that we give incentives to those who knew about the crime so that they would come out (with the information)," the mayor said in Cebuano. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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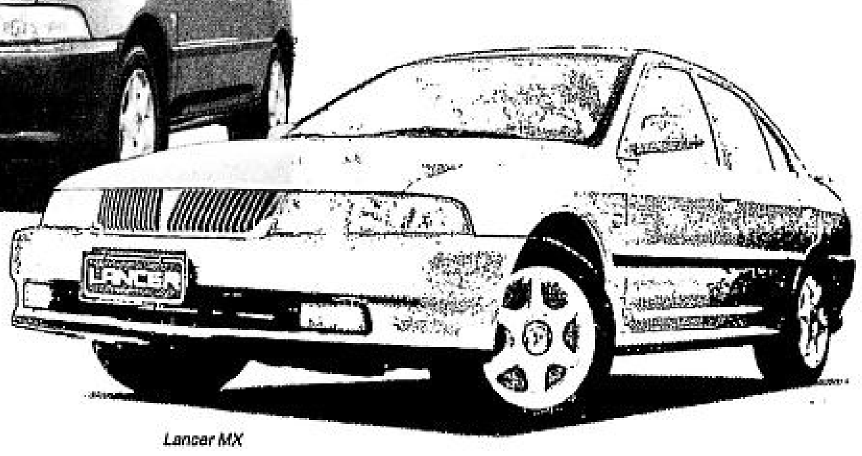
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Manobo warriors attack village, hundreds flee

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Hundreds of residents of a remote village in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur fled their homes when members of one of the warring groups started to sow terror in the area since three days ago.

Reports reaching the INQUIRER said a group of Manobo warriors formerly allied with the New People's Army stormed Sitio Bahay in La Purisima Village in search of suspects behind the ambush of their tribal chieftain on Oct. 31.

The group led by Supreme Datu Manuel Perez suspects that the perpetrators of the ambush were hiding in the area.

Lt. Col. Francisco Simbahon, spokesperson of the Army's 402nd Brigade based in Prosperidad town admitted the situation was getting worse and that they had to send in a contingent to help secure the civilians.

Simbahon said members of the Hukbong Pagpanimalos led by a certain Ladring Acebedo were responsible for the ambush of Datu Urbano Rosaldo and his wife Julieta on Oct. 31. Julieta was killed on the spot while Urbano, as of press time was still in a critical situation. *Butch Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

RP's next fishing ground

KALAYAAN, Palawan—The local government here, the country's most sought-after municipality located at the westernmost part of the province, has turned its focus to making this contested chain of islands as the country's center of fishing operations.

The town boasts of a large span of seas where a countrywide array of fishes can be found, making it attractive for investment, said Jun Bito-onon, Kalayaan municipality planning officer.

Bito-onon said plans are under way for the establishment of fishermen's villages in some of the municipality's islands.

"This aims to attract fishermen and have permanent settlers in these islands which are only manned by the Armed Forces," he explained.

Light infrastructure establishments, like ice plants, are being considered to fully maximize the potential of the islands.

"This is better than fishermen intruding into our municipal waters," Bito-onon added.

He also expressed hope that the move would bolster economic activity in the area, which for the past 23 years since the municipality's declaration as a local government unit, had been dull.

Some sectors also believe that these could strengthen the country's claim for the area, which is being claimed in part or whole by various countries. *Ruelle Albert Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Chinoy watch group active again

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The Chinese-Filipino community here has reactivated its neighborhood watch group in response to the successive abductions in September of Jackie Rowena Tiu here and hotel owner Charlie Ngo in Dagupan City.

Tiu, daughter of a local Chinese-Filipino businessman, was recovered by policemen from her kidnappers after 10 days in captivity. While the security of the Tiu family is considered by police to be under threat to this day, police have yet to confirm Ngo's kidnapping because of the non-cooperation of his family.

According to a Chinese-Filipino businessman here, the local Chinese-Filipino community has become more "security conscious" after Tiu's abduction.

He added that some businessmen "who could afford" it have increased the number of security guards in their establishments.

He also did not discount the possibility that some Chinese-Filipino families may have recently bought guns and obtained licenses to carry them for security reasons.

He attributed the recent arrest in this city of two mainland Chinese, one of whom did not have valid travel documents and is now awaiting deportation, as a result of the vigilant efforts of the group and its close coordination with the local police.

The source refused to disclose details about the neighborhood watch, which, a senior Chinese-Filipino businessman said is a reactivation of the local "Fire Brigade" formed in the 1980s.

Supt. Dominador Aquino Jr., San Fernando police chief, welcomed the support of the private sector in the police's anti-crime efforts, adding that "(the Chinese-Filipinos) have better communications equipment (than the local police)."

The businessman said recent events have "definitely affected their lifestyle." He said he and his family now vary their routines so that their activities will not become predictable.

A Chinese-Filipino banker also told the INQUIRER that members of his family now only go out when necessary. He also makes sure his children have a companion when going out or driving.

"We used to go out as a family every week. We're not doing that anymore for the time being," admitted a Chinese-Filipino doctor here.

When asked if some businessmen are thinking of leaving and investing elsewhere, a Chinese-Filipino businessman said: "It's still within control. *Lalaban muna kami* (We'll put up a fight first)." *Gia Damaso Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Missing kids found in shallow grave

DAVAO CITY—Skeletal remains believed to be those of the two teenagers who disappeared at the height of the anti-communist campaign by the police and the military 12 years ago, were dug up in a shallow grave here on Wednesday.

A resident, who provided details about the grave, accompanied relatives of Anthony Carillo of Tugbok District and Ronel Tampipi of Buhangin District.

They were also accompanied by representatives of the Families of Victims of Involuntarily Disappearance (FIND), and a team of forensic experts from the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City in exhuming the remains in a secluded area in New Visayas, Barangay Akasya, Buhangin District.

The witness, whose name is being withheld, claimed he saw fatigue-clad men use rifles to shoot the two victims about 12 years ago.

Benedicta Tampipi and Felicidad Carillo told the INQUIRER that their sons, both 15 when they disappeared, were believed to have been kidnapped, tortured and killed by military elements under the 75th Infantry Battalion and the police's special action force on suspicion they were NPA members.

Carillo of Sitio Battalion of Carmen in Tugbok was then visiting Tampipi, a resident of Akasya, when fatigue-wearing armed men reportedly abducted them.

Both mothers said they are positive the remains belong to the missing teenagers.

Jerome Baylen, team leader of the forensic team said they would try to match the skeletons with available data to determine their identities.

However, he said that from all indications, the victims were shot because of a slug from an armalite rifle embedded in the ribs of one of the two skeletons. This, he said corroborated the statement of the witness that he saw two men being executed by men in fatigue.

Maylene Leynes of FIND said they would help relatives of the victims in filing charges against the suspects.

At the height of the anti-communist campaign here until the late 80s, hundreds of people suspected as rebels disappeared. Some of them were later found dead bearing torture marks. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Davao execs face suit over car use

DAVAO CITY—The Freedom from Debt Coalition said it would file charges against government officials, including Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan, who used their government-issued cars to visit their dead relatives on All Saints' Day.

Bill Martin of the FDC said Bonguyan's government-issued vehicle, a Toyota Hilux with temporary plate 112-89427 was seen at the vicinity of San Pedro Memorial Park.

Martin said Bonguyan's driver confirmed that the executive's mother used the car at that time.

However, Bonguyan said he was the one who used the service vehicle because he was monitoring the situation at the San Pedro Memorial Park.

He said although it was a holiday, it was his duty to monitor the situation, being the vice chair of the city peace and order council and the drug abuse council.

"I was there. Probably my driver was unmindful of his answer," Bonguyan countered.

Martin said it would have been alright if Bonguyan was indeed in the cemetery.

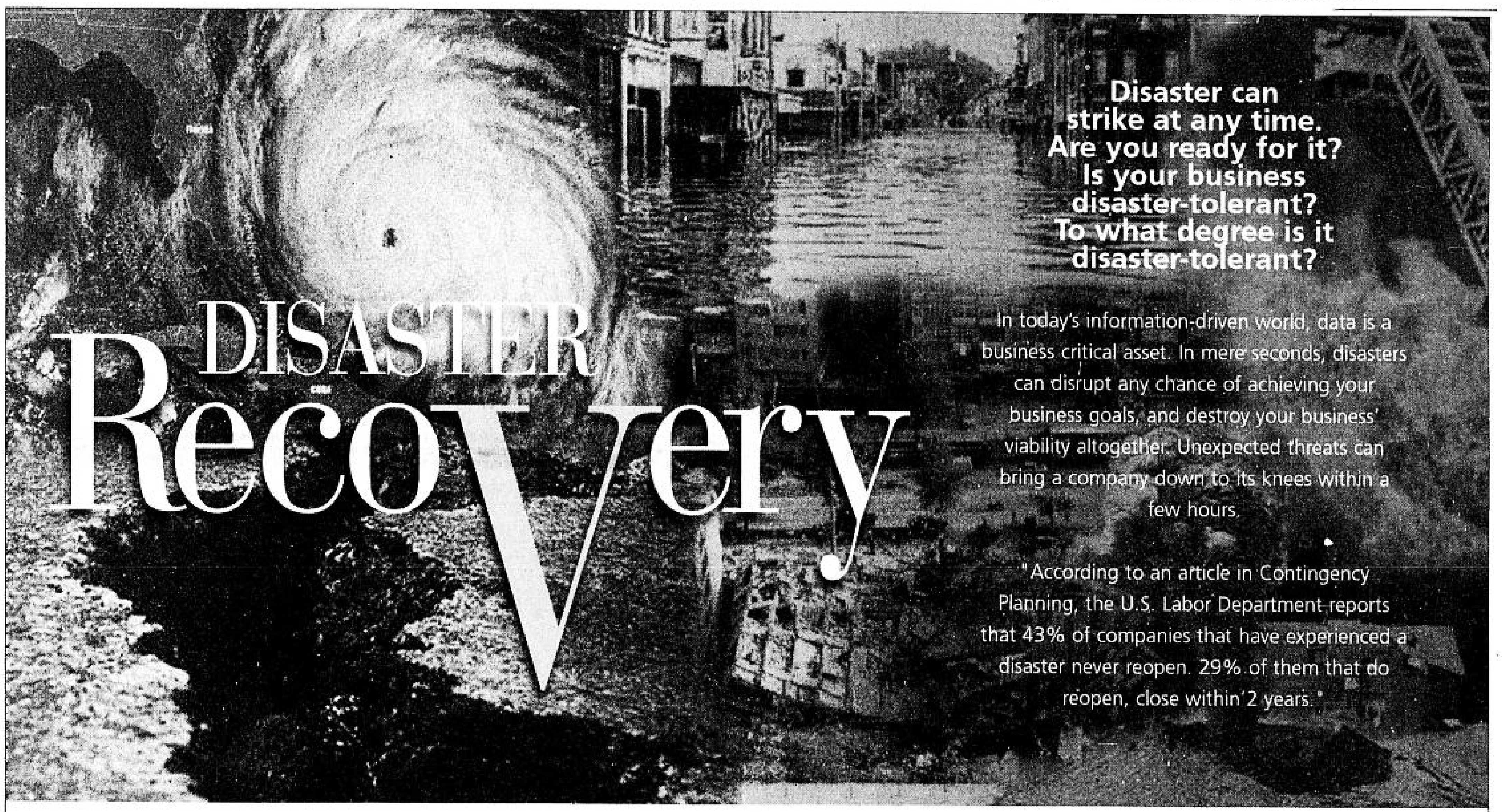
"No less than his driver gave the confirmation that he was not the one using the vehicle at that time but his mother. The vehicle was used for a family affair," he added.

Martin said Bonguyan should set an example being the second highest official in the city on the proper use of government-issued vehicles.

Martin said they also saw two government-issued vehicles used for private purposes.

These were an Isuzu pick-up truck with plate number SEN 380, which was seen at the Davao Memorial Park and a vehicle with plate number SCV 802 reportedly issued to the Department of Agrarian Reform in Panabo City.

Martin said FDC was not singling out Bonguyan. He said about 500 complaints have been filed by his group with the Ombudsman's Office since they launched the campaign against unofficial use of government vehicles. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Garchitorena told me to quit–Badoy

(From page A1)

He particularly rued Badoy's holding the press conference on a Sunday and with him on a provincial hearing.

Badoy said he would fend off any pressure, noting that resignations are supposed to be "voluntary."

"Giving in? If I were giving in, I would not be here this afternoon . . . I would not be fighting hard if I did not have a strong faith and confidence in the Philippine judicial system, especially with the reforms being introduced now," Badoy said.

He said that he took the third division post as "an assignment from God for me to do for him in the last remaining years, months or days. Who knows? So I'm going to do it for God as best as I can, for the country, as best I can and for all of you sirs and madams."

Unusual meeting

Badoy said that he could not remember the date of the meeting with Garchitorena but noted that he was preparing to go to the La Salle-Ateneo championship game on Oct. 16 when the Sandigan presiding justice called the meeting.

Badoy refused to divulge details of the meeting, which he described as an "unusual" because it was called after office hours.

Present during the meeting were third division Justices Teresita Leonardo-de Castro and Ricardo Ilarde.

"As far as I can see, Presiding Justice Garchitorena was trying to enlist the support of my colleagues in the third division . . . as far as I can see, they were not biting," Badoy said when asked if the pressure came only from Garchitorena.

"He did not say in black and white that 'I want you to resign' but I am not stupid not to understand . . . He did not say it out right but I'm not so stupid not to get the message . . . (It was) unmistakable," Badoy said.

Badoy said that he merely kept quiet and smiled as Garchitorena tried to pressure him. "I never answered," he said.

Asked if there was a possibility that Garchitorena meant it as a "joke," Badoy said, "No, it was dead serious . . . it was indirect . . . I am certain."

Badoy was apparently incensed by the incident but kept quiet for several weeks until he was asked whether reports about pressure being applied on him were true.

Crying inside

"I cannot be expected to be very happy about it. So, although you may see me smiling now, I'm crying inside," he said when asked how he felt about the pressure being exerted on him.

After that meeting, he said he went straight to the basketball game and caught only the last five minutes.

"He should just have come out with it straight—'OK, I want you to resign, OK, you want to leave now?' 'Yes sir, I'm rushing to the Ateneo-La Salle game,'—that's how it should have happened," Badoy said in jest after the press conference.

Garchitorena denied enlisting the help of the other members of the third division in pressuring Badoy to resign.

"I don't have the power or the right to do that," the presiding justice said in Filipino.

He confirmed, though, that he had a meeting with Badoy, De Castro and Ilarde on Oct. 16, and that it was De Castro and Ilarde who sought that meeting.

For weeks before that, he said, De Castro and Ilarde wanted to talk to Badoy "in front of me" and that chance finally came on Oct. 16.

The meeting took place inside Garchitorena's office.

Garchitorena refused to confirm whether De Castro and Ilarde's complaints against Badoy concerned the Estrada case.

He asked that the "exchange" *(paliwanagan)* that happened in that meeting be kept confidential for ethical considerations.

"At that meeting I did not raise the issue of him leaving the third division," Garchitorena said. "The issue of whether he should drop the Estrada case did not come from me."

Asked how he felt about Badoy's accusations against him, Garchitorena claimed at first that he has "no emotion about the matter."

Later he conceded having a "little regret" and that he was "close to being stunned."

Officially as presiding justice, Garchitorena said, he could not do anything to confront Badoy, saying it was not his practice to hold press conferences outside his task as Sandiganbayan spokesperson on the Estrada cases.

"I have no action to take against him. I don't know what to accuse him of," Garchitorena said.

He expressed surprise over Badoy's accusations,

considering that the two of them along with other Sandiganbayan justices were "very cordial, friendly" during Badoy's birthday celebration last week.

Estrada knew of bickering

About two weeks ago, Estrada himself told the Inquirer about the bickering among third division justices over Badoy's handling of Estrada's plunder case.

Estrada then claimed that Garchitorena was particularly not happy with Badoy's performance, something, which now appears to support Badoy's complaint against the presiding justice.

Other irritants

Badoy also revealed "irritants" in the relationship between the third division and Garchitorena.

At one point, he said that when Garchitorena was still acting as the "spokesman" for the third division, Garchitorena came out with several pronouncements that contradicted the stand of the justices hearing the plunder case.

Badoy said that he felt uncomfortable and asked that the practice be stopped.

"He made public pronouncements a number of times that the plunder case cannot be treated differently from any other case," Badoy said.

"So you cannot proceed faster than the other cases. That made the third division uncomfortable because if, for any reason, we decided later to go any faster . . . the accused would say that Garchitorena had said that it was not correct to proceed and treat this case differently from other cases," he added.

At the Oct. 1 hearing, Badoy said that the third division tried to proceed despite moves to block it.

He also hinted that he expected more problems to crop up tomorrow.

Araullo said Badoy showed "strength of character" when he proceeded with the hearing of the plunder case despite the many motions filed by the defense.

She said the defense scored a "psychological and political victory" when Garchitorena ruled in open court that the accusation that Estrada committed perjury when he allegedly underdeclared his assets for 1999 was vague.

In making the ruling, Garchitorena practically dismissed the perjury case against Estrada, prosecutors earlier said.

Araullo said defense lawyers had already identified the weak points of the prosecution so they focused on a supposed demolition job on Badoy.

The campaign, she added, was part of a move to have the charges against Estrada dismissed.

Quoting a Supreme Court insider, Araullo claimed the high court was set to vote in favor of a petition pushing for the declaration of the plunder law vague and thus unconstitutional.

Araullo said Plunder Watch and other civil society groups would mount a series of protest actions to raise alarm over the supposed decision that would prevent the prosecution of Estrada for an offense punishable by death.

Glo leaves Mike behind in Manila

(From page A1)

travels in August, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday left for another country without her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, included in her party. No official explanation was given to explain why Arroyo did not accompany his wife on her trip to Brunei.

One Palace official noted that Arroyo's presence was not required because the President's trip was, in the language of international protocol, merely a "working visit."

According to the official, the presence of spouses of heads of state is required during state visits but is only optional during official as well as working visits.

President Macapagal is attending the 7th Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations with a very lean party of five.

Together with their children Evangeline Lourdes and Diosdado, the First Gentleman saw the President off at the airport.

Government officials led by Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona also witnessed the President's departure at about 2 p.m., for her eighth foreign trip since taking office in January.

The military's top brass was in full attendance, all dressed in immaculate white uniforms. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva was joined by AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime delos Santos, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor and Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Victorino Hingco.

The President's five-man delegation consisted of Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, Press Secretary Noel Cabrera, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Lauro Baja, Presidential Adviser for Regional Development Paul Dominguez and Philippine Ambassador to Brunei Enrique Zaldivar.

Low profile

During her visit to Japan in September, a trip also classified as a working visit, the President was accompanied by Arroyo.

Since then, however, the First Gentleman's name has been dragged deeper into two controversies, prompting him to assume a low profile à la Denis Thatcher, the self-effacing husband of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Arroyo is the subject of two Senate investigations in connection with the alleged telecommunications franchise scam and the alleged diversion of funds from the sweepstakes office during the May senatorial elections.

Malacañang has referred the two cases to the Office of the Ombudsman.

In her departure speech at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Ms Macapagal said the Asean summit would be a "working, no frills and no ceremonies" event. Not to mention "no husbands."

GMA hits ground running in Brunei

(From page A1)

host simulation games, something similar to disaster preparedness, although this one would be about emergency response to terrorist threats," she said.

Ms Macapagal said her proposal would stem from an Asean declaration against terrorism that the organization has been forging at the ministerial level at the urging of the Philippines.

"The idea is to map out a strategy of constriction against terrorists and their resources while keeping open safe avenues for legitimate investments, trade and labor migration," she said.

Ms Macapagal said the Asean members would find it difficult to consolidate as an economic bloc "if we do not secure the ramparts of our own neighborhood."

After the Asean declaration against terrorism is approved, "the declaration could lead to concrete agreements or conventions on specific measures to be undertaken individually and collectively," she added.

Among the details of the proposed anti-terror convention are "restraints on terrorist funds, transportation, energy and health, security, customs and border controls," she added.

At the same time, she said, Asean must prepare for the next World Trade Organization (WTO) round particularly with the impending entry of China and the need to help poorer countries prepare for trade liberalization.

Other issues

Other issues that Ms Macapagal was expected to take up include the revival of a Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines growth area, accelerating information technology programs in Asean and the proposed East Asian community encompassing Asean, China, Japan and South Korea.

Ms Macapagal has been calling for stronger anti-terror efforts within Asean in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

Among the other anti-terror measures is a proposed security accord between the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia that may be expanded to include Singapore and Thailand.

Asean includes these five countries as well as Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia have previously expressed concern over violent Islamic extremist groups in their territories that might be forging links with each other.

The Philippines has also declared full support for the US-led strikes against Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden and his Taliban hosts in Afghanistan.

This is in line with Manila's own struggle against the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Mindanao, who have links to Bin Laden.

But predominantly Muslim Malaysia and Indonesia have voiced reservations or criticism of the US strikes.

Delicately worded

Senior officials preparing the groundwork for the summit have drafted a delicately worded statement against terrorism.

The Asean leaders are expected to endorse the statement at the working dinner on Sunday. It would broadly condemn terrorism but skirt the prickly issue of US-led air strikes in Afghanistan, officials said.

Indonesia and Malaysia, while condemning the terror attacks on New York and Washington, have criticized the retaliation against Afghanistan, saying it was killing innocent people without stamping out terrorism.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri are under heavy pressure at home to seek a halt to the US strikes.

Malaysian opposition leader Lim Kit Siang urged Mahathir to use his influence to get Asean to become "the first regional grouping in the world to make a collective call for a halt to the US-led air strikes in Afghanistan."

The discussions on terrorism are being held in a region where more than half the 500 million population are Muslims, and where Osama bin laden T-shirts are worn with pride by some people.

But the same region looks up to the United States, its major trading partner, as a force for stability. Singapore and the Philippines have been the staunchest US backers in the region since the Sept. 11 attacks.

AIDS terror

A terror of another kind which haunts the Asean leaders is the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) scourge which is exacting a heavy toll on economies already reeling from a severe downturn.

The leaders will convene a special session during their talks to adopt an "Asean Work Program" to battle the AIDS pandemic, caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Among the key themes of the work program is a joint Asean approach to ensure availability of affordable drugs for AIDS victims, build regional responses to reduce vulnerability to the disease, and seek greater involvement of religious leaders in the fight against the disease.

"The fact that the AIDS/HIV problem is being elevated to the Asean summit is the clearest sign of how serious this problem has become and therefore requires a collective response from the highest level," Asean spokesperson M.C. Abad said.

There are around 1.6 million people in the region living with HIV/AIDS.

The Asean leaders will also announce the establishment of a task force to assess Southeast Asia's competitive edge as part of a response to the economic slowdown in the region that has led to job losses and cutbacks in infrastructure development.

The Asean summit with Japan, South Korea and China will focus on cooperation in specific sectors of trade, investment, finance, education and human resources development.

The Asean leaders will meet their three key partners separately on Tuesday and are almost certain to agree to the setting up of the world's biggest free trade zone with China. ***With reports from AP and AFP***

Luzon blackout: Jellyfish, not plotters, did it

(From page A1)

Zambales, Pangasinan (Dagupan and most of central Pangasinan), Isabela, Cagayan, Clark EPZ, Subic Bay Freeport, Pampanga, Bulacan, Bataan and Nueva Ecija (Fort Magsaysay area.)

In Southern Luzon, Lucena City, Laguna, Legazpi City, Catanduanes and Sorsogon were also without electricity.

Third massive blackout

This year, the breakdown of Napocor's transmission lines was the third, causing a blackout in the entire Luzon.

The first was in January when parts of a transmission line were reportedly stolen and the second was in May.

It was the second breakdown of the Sual power plant in 23 months. On Dec. 10, 1999, the power plant broke down because its cooling system was clogged by jellyfish enough to fill up 50 dump trucks.

There were no immediate reports of any panicking and disorder from the outage but radio reports said hundreds of people left their homes to escape the heat after their electric fans and airconditioners were knocked out.

Traffic in Metro Manila was snarled as people were returning home after a four-day holiday. The overhead railway system shut down.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, who is attending a seminar in Malaysia, said in a statement that weak current in one cable caused the automatic shutdown of the Sual power plant to prevent possible damage. The shutdown also affected two other plants in Quezon and Batangas provinces.

When a power plant breaks down, it causes a cascading effect especially when the voltage fluctuates wildly and the circuit breakers bog down, according to a Napocor official.

Distributors like Meralco protect their lines by shutting down power when there is a sign of an automatic load dropping or when power supply is reduced.

Perez said that workers were busy repairing the problem and that the power could be restored in the evening.

"We'd like to tell the people not to worry," he said. "Nothing bad happened. This problem happens, and we are working to fix it," he said.

Jesus Alcordo, Napocor president, said Napocor was still determining what had caused the simultaneous tripping, a term the power firm normally uses to refer to a power problem in a plant or a transmission line.

Alcordo assured, as of 7 last night, that the power firm could restore electricity to the entire Luzon grid by 12 midnight at the latest. He said the restoration would take five hours from the time of the outage.

"We are already in the process of restoration and I was told that most of the plants that have tripped could be brought on line already. We are coordinating with Meralco," said the Napocor president. Meralco partly owns Quezon Power, one of the power generators that bogged down.

Alcordo explained that after a massive power failure, the Napocor must feed power to the system gradually. Otherwise, it will lead to another tripping.

He said that a state-owned power plant activated two of its smaller hydroelectric facilities after the Luzon-wide power outage.

As of 9 p.m., Napocor restored electricity in parts of Laguna, Quezon City, Pasig City, Sta. Mesa in Manila and Mandaluyong.

Alcordo expressed confidence that Napocor could restore power Luzon by dawn today.

Heightened security

Because of persistent coup rumors, the Presidential Security Group (PSG) has stepped up security measures for Ms Macapagal, PSG chief Brig. Gen. Glen Rabonza yesterday said.

"Everything is on heightened alert," Rabonza said before the start of send-off ceremonies at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) for the President.

"We take everything seriously. We don't throw away any information. That's the way we work," Rabonza said.

He said the President's security had been doubled because of the coup rumors.

Rabonza, however, declined to say what specific threats had been monitored by the government's intelligence agencies.

He noted that "everything is written in the papers so I don't need to elaborate."

Asked about the reported assassination plot against the President, which was allegedly hatched by the Young Officers Union (YOU), Rabonza said: "My lips are sealed."

Administration, military and police officers interviewed at Naia took turns in downplaying reports that certain quarters in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the PNP were hatching a plot to topple the President.

The rumors were fanned by a statement issued on Friday by the ruling Lakas-NUCD party that the YOU had tried to recruit two Air Force pilots into joining a mutiny.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said there was no specific threat against the Macapagal administration. "We have contingencies. The PNP and the military are prepared," he said.

Presidential political adviser Jose Rufino said Lakas spokesperson Gualberto Lumauig was meeting yesterday with party media consultant Ed Malay, who released the statement about the YOU recruitment of Air Force personnel.

Rufino, who is also the Lakas-NUCD executive director, said the veracity of the information contained in the party statement was still being checked.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said the military had not confirmed the information about the two Air Force pilots whom Lakas said had been confronted by their superiors.

"As far as we are concerned we have not confirmed anything," Villanueva said.

Inaccurate

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor said the report about the two pilots was inaccurate. He described it as "too much dribbled information resulting in out-of-bound statement."

Defensor, a brother of former opposition Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, said Ms Macapagal knew that he reported the all-clear information through the military chain of command.

Defensor conceded that a coup would not succeed without air support. He said no coup would take place because he remained firmly in charge of the Air Force.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said that while it was true that YOU chair Supt. Rafael Cardeño was recruiting members, this was not aimed at raising a force to fight the government.

"He admitted recruiting but not to destabilize (the government). He is recruiting members for YOU, which is okay with us," Mendoza said.

"That was what they told us upon investigation," the PNP chief said.

YOU is a group of military and police officers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. It is tolerated as long it does not violate military and police rules, according to Mendoza.

Mendoza also set aside rumors of demoralization in the police organization allegedly triggered by the President's supposed premature disclosure of Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.'s impending appointment to the top PNP post.

Mendoza said the reported demoralization in the PNP was nothing but friendly teasing among fellow officers.

"I don't think it's true. *Kantyawan lang yun*," Mendoza said.

"We are professionals. As professionals we don't speculate. We just focus on our jobs," he said.

Mendoza yesterday welcomed Ms Macapagal's announcement that she might extend to four years his term as PNP chief.

Humbled

"I'm humbled by the statement of the President particularly the trust and confidence she has reposed on me," the soft-spoken Mendoza said.

He expressed his readiness to finish a four-year tour as PNP chief. "I'll be honored," he said. Mendoza's was originally scheduled to retire in March 2002.

Ms Macapagal said Saturday that she did not intend to retire Mendoza, whom she described as the country's version of Elliot Ness, the famous American lawman who sent Chicago mob chief Al Capone to prison.

The President also vouched for Mendoza's integrity, saying his name has not been linked to organized crime like kidnapping and drug trafficking.

"As I have said before, I serve at the pleasure of the President," said Mendoza, an intelligence officer who belongs to Class 1969 of the Philippine Military Academy.

Mendoza said his work was well cut out: "We have to endeavor more and focus on our job of fighting criminals."

The President's announcement that she was not retiring Mendoza in March was apparently spurred by criticisms about her previous statement on the PNP succession.

Earlier, Ms Macapagal said Ebdane was next in line and not Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, director of PNP Central Luzon office.

The President made the statement amid the opposition's allegation that Berroya was spreading coup rumors so that she would relieve Mendoza and name Berroya as PNP chief.

In her radio program on Saturday, the President said she never said she was retiring Mendoza in March.

Mendoza said there was no reason for PNP personnel to be demoralized.

"In the Macapagal administration we have an increase in our salary. Our equipment was further (standardized)," he said.

In July, the administration granted the request of the PNP to increase the salaries of its personnel by as much as 50 to 70 percent.

Mendoza expressed the hope that the budget for the increase would be approved by the Senate.

Besides higher salaries, may policemen will get their promotions.

"We will be promoting about 17 thousand (PNP personnel) for this year alone. This is unprecedented," Mendoza said.

Nat'l summit on economy should put RP back on track

(From page A1)

Power II.

Most of the groups and sectors that have been called to the summit are the same ones who withdrew their support from the Estrada administration—the Makati Business Club, the business and trade chambers, labor unions (from right to left of the ideological spectrum) and civil society groups. They constitute the core of the new economic-oriented coalition working in tandem with the administration and Congress.

It does little credit to Ms Macapagal that it took an international crisis to shock her into convening the summit. The summit is a belated attempt to draw a national consensus on the economic agenda for the remaining three years of her presidency. Although she had twisted the arms of Congress into passing two reform pieces of legislation—the power restructuring bill and the anti-money laundering bill—these measures, by no means, form a national agenda.

Perhaps, the President is not entirely to blame for this delay in seeking a national consensus on economic recovery. The first five months of the new Congress were squandered in legislative investigations involving alleged wrongdoings by both opposition members (the allegations on drug trafficking and money laundering by Sen. Panfilo Lacson) and the President's husband, Mike Arroyo. .

The opposition senators have signified their intentions to participate in the summit's economic agenda formation, signaling a shift toward economic consensus making. The Senate is winding down its investigations preparatory to sending the cases to the proper judicial bodies where they now properly belong.

The political impasse has paralyzed the formation of a national economic agenda and has created a vacuum in which the national dialogue has been hijacked by those fueling coup rumors. That the coup rumors have dominated public discourse reflects the drift that has befallen the administration.

President Macapagal has lost the initiative of controlling the national agenda, allowing non-productive activities such as scandal-mongering and coup-mongering to divert the attention and energy of the nation from its most critical concerns—economic recovery and the establishment of an authoritative government.

Malcontents

The contents of the agenda have been seized by such malcontents as the die-hard Estrada allies who until now have not accepted the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

Then there are the self-righteous civil society allies of Ms Macapagal who hold the notion that it was they who were responsible in installing her to power, therefore, they have the right to dictate the agenda of her government and to determine whom to hire and fire.

In reality, the accession of Ms Macapagal is a result of a complex combination of factors and no single group can claim credit for Estrada's fall and Ms Macapagal's ascent to power.

The threat, for example, of the People' Consultative Assembly, to withdraw support from the administration if it does not undertake reforms in 30 days and dismiss people in government associated with Mike Arroyo scales the height of arrogance. It is an offensive demonstration of the PCA's inflated self-importance.

Since when did the PCA, or any civil society group putting demands on the administration, become the moral and ethical beacon of government?

Who is Linda Montayre to issue ultimatums on the basis of her own value judgment of what is good or bad governance? Who appointed the PCA, or even the YOU (Young Officers Union), to be the censor of government?

Where did they get the right to threaten government with another people power mobilization based on their unproven conclusion of corruption in the administration? And how much clout does PCA possess to withdraw support—as though it has the capacity to defect of the Armed Forces—and cause the collapse of government?

The problem with a number of civil society groups, which formed part of the nationwide movement seeking the resignation of Estrada, is that they are driven by a messianic complex with their own set of political values that impatiently demand reforms overnight. When their values are frustrated, they believe they have the right to incite the people to march in the streets and overthrow government.

Lacking any evidence of venalities to pin on the President herself, the self-righteous civil society groups have made Mike Arroyo their favorite bashing beast, exploiting his vulnerabilities arising from his bad habit of wanting to play power broker and his clownish behavior.

They have no use for institutional processes to which the accusations against him have been referred. They play accuser and judge at the same time.

They seek to replace evidence, orderly process and institutions with their judgments based on the conviction that they hold a monopoly of ethical values of governance.

New arbiters

The new arbiters of civic virtues have become the stars of TV talk shows which have been competing among themselves and scrambling to interview them and to repeat their boorish nonsense.

Within 24 hours, Linda Montayre and alleged coup conspirators have been in the spotlight of three talk shows, an indication that they have run out of people to interview.

Montayre has grabbed the spotlight from Ador Mawanay and Mary "Rosebud" Ong as star TV celebrities in the Panfilo Lacson running saga.

Those of us who welcomed the fall of the corrupt Estrada regime would like reforms done in governance.

But the scandals surrounding Mike Arroyo are not of the outrageous proportions we had under Estrada, as correctly pointed out by the Stratfor report. Corruption is not the only concern of government.

If we should have a sense of priority, the most important concern of the post-Estrada era is an effective government that knows its priorities, and is competent and organized to address them.

Coup plot reports lack originality. They repeat the script that made People Power II successful—mass demonstrations (which are non-existent) as a trigger for military defection.

The national leadership has to stop the hijacking of the national agenda by self-appointed messiahs like Linda Montayre, the YOU and other disgruntled civil society groups, including ex-generals, all of whom have come to believe that democracy is about the unbridled rule of the streets, not about the rule of institutions.

Abu Sayyaf now holding Italian missionary

(From page A1)

day morning.

At least two Abu Sayyaf members were killed while six others were captured.

"We immediately conducted an amphibious raid in Laong Moali led by the Navy special warfare group and the raid yielded six Abu Sayyaf captured and two killed, all with body count," Cimatu told the INQUIRER by phone.

He identified the captured bandits as Hussein Sadikal, Eraji Isnani, Faizal Sadikal, Ammin Kassim, Jojo Imampai and Mussal Sadikal.

"It was a two-hour firefight, really heavy, and it started around 4:45 a.m. (In) this encounter, our troops recovered high-powered firearms," Cimatu added.

The Marine and Navy forces recovered two M16 rifles, two Garand rifles, one carbine, one M79 grenade launcher and two homemade bombs. All have been turned over to the Task Group Lightning for inventory.

Cimatu said the captured bandits were now undergoing tactical interrogation at the Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City.

He said government troops were preparing "intensified operations" against the kidnappers but did not give details.

Golez reiterated that the government would not negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf bandits, saying that if they wanted to give up, they should just come out in the open and surrender.

The group, which has been kidnapping foreigners and Christians in Western Mindanao for years, is also believed to have links with Osama bin Laden, the main suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States. *With a report from AFP*

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13 leaders . . .

(From page A1)

Asia—China, Japan and South Korea.

Ahmad Damit, director of summit security, said more than 2,000 police and military personnel—the bulk of this tiny sultanate's security force—would be on duty through the summit on Monday and Tuesday.

Ahmad cited no specific terror threats, but he said security officials had received training about anthrax. They would be on alert for suspicious letters and packages.

Bomb-sniffing dogs have been deployed around summit venues and border, and maritime patrols have been stepped up.

Should an attack occur, plans were in place to airlift out the 13 leaders, Ahmad told reporters.

"We are ready to deal with any form of anthrax threat," he said. *AP*

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Michigan State stuns rival

EAST LANSING, Michigan—Jeff Smoker, scrambling and off-balance, lobbed a 2-yard touchdown pass to T.J. Duckett on the last play as Michigan State stunned No. 6 Michigan 26-24 on Saturday. There were seven lead changes between the Spartans (5-2, 3-2 Big Ten) and Wolverines (6-2, 4-1) and neither team led by more than seven points. The loss likely ended the Wolverines' chances at playing for the national championship in Rose Bowl. *AP*

Khorkina gymnastics queen

GHENT, Belgium—With two more golds Saturday, Svetlana Khorkina again crowned herself the undisputed queen of gymnastics. Add a fourth Sunday, and it will be the greatest world-championship performance in more than four decades. Khorkina added titles on the vault and uneven bars to her all-around championship crown Saturday and still has a good shot at a quadruple with the floor exercise in the closing women's event Sunday. *AP*

Alaska whips Pop, boosts q'finals bid

GAMES WEDNESDAY:
(Araneta Coliseum)
5:05 p.m.—Talk N' Text vs Tanduay
7:10 p.m.—San Miguel vs Red Bull

MERCILESS ALASKA rode on a stirring fourth quarter assault to shoot down Pop Cola, 85-75, and boost its quarterfinals bid last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Aces found the going rough most of the way against the hard-fighting Panthers but a blistering finish gave them their fifth win against seven losses.

Alaska nursed a slim 60-59 edge at the third period before Rodney Santos, Ron Riley, Ali Peek and Kenneth Duremdes uncorked a decisive 19-1 blast which took the fight out of the hot and cold Panthers.

Duremdes capped the big Alaska show with a three-pointer, 79-60, 2:42 remaining, as the Aces simply coasted along up to the final buzzer.

"The guys did a good job. We played consistently," said Alaska mentor Tim Cone.

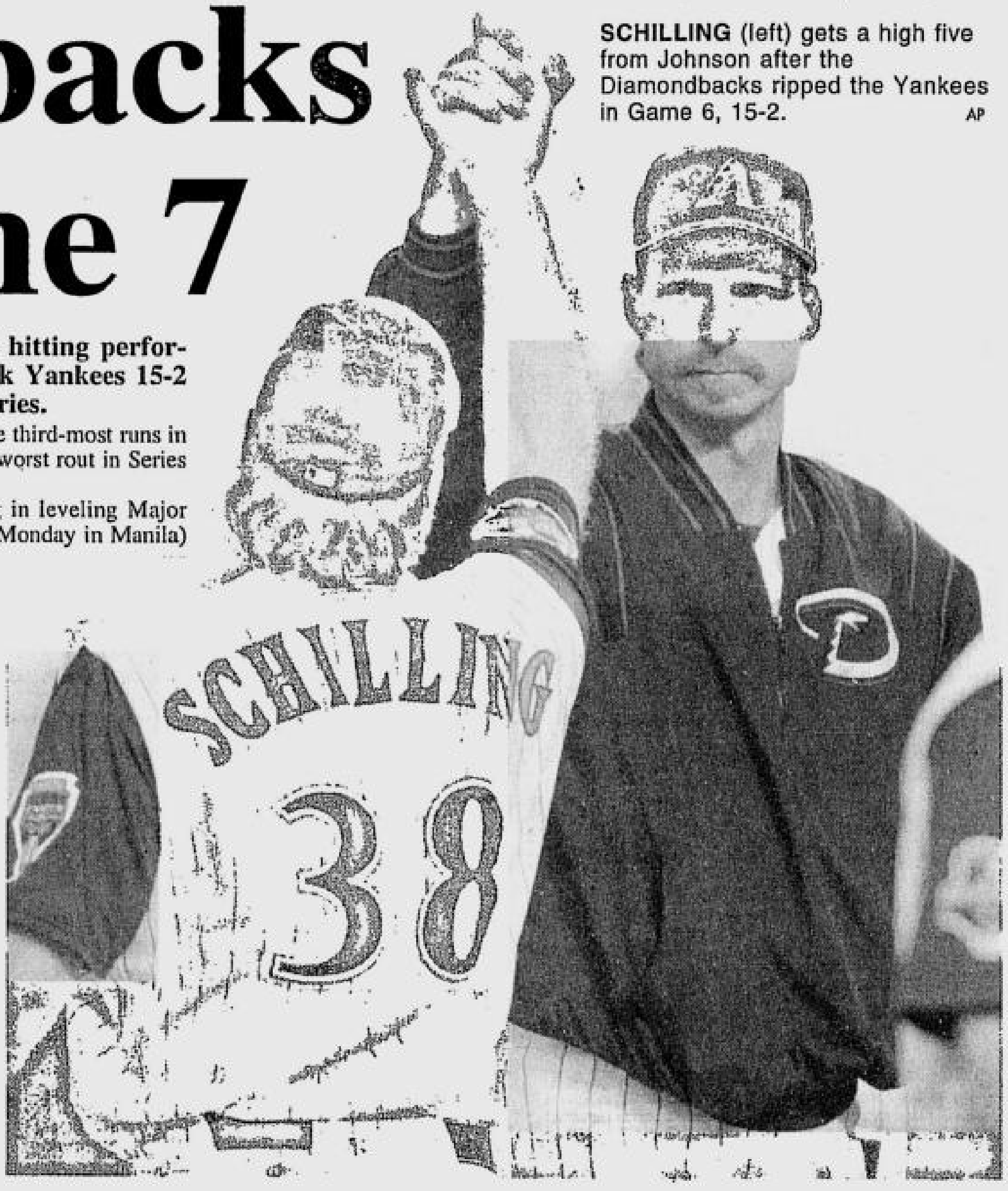
The Aces thus tied the Ginebra Kings as the battle for quarterfinal slots and the twice-to-beat privileges heats up.

Except for the tireless Roselle Ellis, nobody among coach Chot Reyes' wards lived up to the challenge. Former Alaska stalwarts Poch Juinio and Johnny Abarrientos flopped and the rest of their teammates obviously lost the will to fight when the Aces came up with that decisive stretch run.

Pop Cola dropped to 6-6, endangering its bid for a Magic Four slot. It must beat Talk N' Text on Nov. 11 to have a chance.

Askia Jones fired tournament-highs 60 points and 10 triples to power Shell past Sta. Lucia Realty, 111-88, in the nightcap. Sta. Lucia dropped to 8-4 while Shell rose to 7-4. Jones' efforts fell short of Jerrod White's 61-point, 11-triple performance in the Commissioner's Cup. *Dennis Eroa*

Diamondbacks force Game 7



SCHILLING (left) gets a high five from Johnson after the Diamondbacks ripped the Yankees in Game 6, 15-2. AP

PHOENIX, Arizona—Arizona batters unleashed the greatest hitting performance in World Series history Saturday to rout the New York Yankees 15-2 and force a one-game showdown to decide the 97th World Series.

Arizona blasted a Series-record 22 hits off four Yankee pitchers, scored the third-most runs in a Series game and inflicted the worst Series loss in Yankee history, the third-worst rout in Series history, here Saturday.

The Diamondbacks struck for eight runs in a record-setting third inning in leveling Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final at 3-3, setting the stage for Sunday's (Monday in Manila) seventh game decider, the 34th in Series history.

Yankee right-hander Roger Clemens, the winning pitcher in game three after a 20-3 season, will face Arizona ace Curt Schilling, a 22-game winner who took the opener and pitched seven shutout innings in game four.

Answering the heartbreak of two last-out tying homers in extra-inning, one-run losses at chilly Yankee Stadium, Arizona inflicted a record-setting romp as New York's magic evaporated in the desert heat.

Tony Womack and Danny Bautista each went 3-for-4 at the plate, Bautista driving home four runs and Womack three more to lead the assault. Reggie Sanders went 4-for-5. Matt Williams was 3-for-5.

Arizona's Randy Johnson allowed two runs on six hits in seven innings to take his second victory of the series, blanking the Yankees through five innings as Arizona matched a 41-year-old Series record with a 15-0 lead.

The 38-year-old lanky long-armed lobber known as "Big Unit" raised his 2001 strikeout total to a record 418 batters, surpassing the 411 combined season and playoff total of Sandy Koufax in 1965.

Arizona's eight-run third was among the greatest innings in Series history, with 12 batters pounding out six singles and three doubles.

Only 10-run innings by the 1968 Detroit Tigers and 1929 Philadelphia A's exceeded the D-backs' barrage in Series history.

Arizona matched the one-inning Series record for doubles, last equaled in 1959, and Matt Williams became the only man to hit two in one inning. Arizona fell one shy of the A's marks for singles and batters in an inning.

Yankee southpaw Andy Pettitte, belted for four runs and the loss in game two, surrendered six runs and seven hits in just over two innings of work to lose again.

When Greg Colbrunn walked and Williams doubled to open the brutal third, Pettitte was yanked for right-handed reliever Jay Witasick, who surrendered four consecutive singles, three to left field and the fourth by Johnson.

Witasick struck out Womack but allowed singles to Bautista and Colbrunn and doubles to Luis Gonzalez and Williams before striking out Sanders to end the agony, his eight hits allowed in an inning breaking a Series record set by Boston's "Smokey" Joe Wood in 1912.

Damian Miller, Womack and Gonzalez drove home runs in the fourth to chase Witasick, whose eight earned-runs allowed were the most by any pitcher in Series history.

With the game only half over, the Yankees emptied their bench, resting their starters and accepting the inevitable defeat.

New York's Shane Spencer and Luis Sojo hit run-scoring singles in the sixth to trim the final margin of defeat below the record levels set by the Yankees in an 18-4 blowout of the New York Giants in 1936 and a 16-3 win over Pittsburgh in 1960. *AFP*

LINESCORES:				R	H	E
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Arizona	138	300	00X	15	22	0

Davao wins, advances in MBA

LIPA CITY—Grounded for so long, the TPG Davao Eagles are now flying high in the MBA Second Phase.

Displaying their vaunted run-run attack, the Eagles bested the Nueva Ecija Patriots, 113-104, yesterday to gain at least a playoff for a semifinals berth in the Southern Conference at the La Salle Lipa Sentrum.

Dismissed as a contender after dropping their first eight games, the Eagles have taken their last three to boot out the Socsargen-Taguig Marlins, who wound up their elimination round campaign at 3-11.

Though the Eagles can still emerge with the same record, they would advance by virtue of a higher quotient over the Marlins. The Marlins won their first game by six points (122-116), while the Eagles won the second by 12 points (89-77).

"The hardships my players went through have bore fruit," said TPG Davao coach Jun Noel. "Their morale is high."

The game was tight up to the fourth quarter, until prized rookie Peter June Simon sparked a 16-2 salvo that decided the outcome, 107-93 with still 2 minutes and 32 seconds to go.

Playing with the savvy of a veteran, the 6-foot Davao-honed talent finished with 27 points, four assists, four steals and two rebounds to earn player of the game honors, edging teammate Genesis Sasuman, who wound up with 23 points.

Nueva Ecija tasted its eighth straight defeat after winning its first two and crashed out of the running in the Northern Conference where it is hogging the cellar.

LBC Batangas bested Negros, 82-68, in the second game to improve to 10-1 and virtually assure itself of becoming the top qualifier in the Northern Conference. Negros dropped to 8-3 in the Southern Conference. *Roy Luarca*

Scores:

TPG DAVAO 113—Simon 27, Sasuman 23, Marata 18, Dela Rosa 15, Bernardo 12, Caliao 8, Maloloyon 5, Santander 3, Lopez 2, Concha 0, Bonleon 0, Daja 0.

NUEVA ECIJA 104—Bautista 17, J. de Guzman 15, Bansil 13, Manucat 11, De Guia 10, Chaneco 10, De Guzman 9, Punzalan 4, Aquino 1, Bunyi 1, Ferma 0.

Quarters: 30-23, 60-57, 86-85, 113-104.

Second Phase Standings

North	W	L
*LBC Batangas	9	1
Andok's San Juan	7	3
FedEx Laguna	7	3
Nueva Ecija	2	8
South	**W**	**L**
*Negros	8	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	4	7
Socsargen-Taguig	3	11
TPG Davao	3	8

GAMES WEDNESDAY
Cebu Coliseum
3 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs Cebuana Lhuillier
San Luis Sports Complex
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs FedEx Laguna

Alabang to honor caddies

THIRTY caddies who have served for 20 years and 280 original members who have actively used their shares for the past two decades will be honored when the Alabang Country Club Inc. celebrates its 20th anniversary with a series of activities from Nov. 22-25.

The caddies will be given wrist watches for their loyalty to a club which has become one of the country's premier sports centers with excellent facilities not just for golf but for at least seven other sports.

With the backing of Smart Communications as presentor, a 36-hole tournament will be one of the highlights of the affair which is being organized by various sub-committees chaired by club officers, members and managers.

Also providing their support to festivities that will also feature competitions in other sports are Insular Life and Golfers Club Share as major sponsors and Nissan Alabang, Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino and Bank of the Philippines Islands.

Capping the activities on Nov. 25 will be the dinner dance party at the ACCI ballroom where a Nissan Patrol, A Toyota Corolla Altis, a Nissan Exalta 1500 DS, a Mitsubishi Lancer GLX 1500 and a Honda City.

"Being one of the premier sports centers, we felt it wise to use most if not all of the club's facilities that have been built in Alabang's 20 years of existence," said ACCI officer-in-charge Romy Laig.

The club leadership led by ACCI president Francis Jimenez has been on its feet working on the preparations for what could be the biggest event in club history.

Tszyu unifies world crown

TSZYU

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Kostya Tszyu unified the super lightweight world championship Saturday with a second-round technical knockout of Zab Judah that ended with Judah being restrained by nearly a dozen police officers and security personnel.

Tszyu, who held the World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council titles, landed a pair of straight rights to the head, sending the former International Boxing Federation champion in the division — called junior welterweight by the IBF — to the canvas in the final seconds of the second round.

Judah bounced up to challenge the knockdown but stumbled as he approached referee Jay Nady, who immediately halted the bout one second before the bell sounded to end the round.

When the result was announced, Judah tossed a stool toward the center of the ring, then had to be held back by a phalanx of police and security guards.

"He didn't even give me a count," Judah protested. "This was wrong. Why did he do it? I could have fought on." *AP*

No. 1 Davenport quits

MUNICH, Germany—World number one Lindsay Davenport's season ended on a sad note on Sunday when injury forced her to pull out of the final of the WTA Championships.

Davenport, who returned to number one and made sure of ending the year in top spot by beating Belgian Kim Clijsters in the semifinals, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3), was due to play fellow American Serena Williams in the final of the season-ending event. Williams advanced by beating Sandrine testud, 6-3, 6-0

Davenport informed tournament officials that she had felt pain in her troublesome right knee at the end of her match against Belgian Clijsters on Saturday and could not play.

Davenport, the second seed, will knock fellow American Jennifer Capriati off the top spot when the final 2001 WTA rankings are released on Monday. *Reuters*

Verplank holds on; Tiger 6 off

HOUSTON—Scott Verplank held his own Saturday with a 3-under-par 68, a score that figured to be worth more than a one-stroke lead anywhere else but this year's edition of the Tour Championship.

On another calm day of low scoring at Champions Golf Club, David Duval soared into contention with a 63, and Jim Furyk joined the mix with birdies on half of his holes for a tournament-record 62.

All but four players in the 29-man field shot par or better.

When Verplank three-putted for bogey on the last hole, the stage was set for a grand finale to the PGA Tour season.

The Tour Championship features only the best players on tour this year, and most of them are putting on quite a show.

Verplank was at 200, and will be paired Sunday with Duval, who won at Champions in 1997.

Ernie Els kept his hopes alive for his first victory of the year with a 6-under 65, holing a 13.5-meter (45-foot) par putt on the 17th hole to finish at 202. He was joined by Bernhard Langer, Mike Weir, Sergio Garcia, Bob Estes and Kenny Perry.

"You've got to shoot better than 68 or you go backward," Els said.

Furyk's 62 put him at 203, along with PGA champion David Toms.

About the only player missing from the list was Tiger Woods, who made bogey on the 18th hole for the second straight day and had a 69. He was six strokes back and still in the hunt, although he was in no mood to talk.

Adding to his frustration was getting put on the clock while playing with Estes. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASEBALL: MLB World Series, Game 7 at 8:30 a.m. on ESPN and Studio 23
BASKETBALL: NBA – Utah Jazz vs LA Lakers at 10:30 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on Sky Cable and Home Cable Channel 29.
GOLF: Golfglobe 2001 at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
PGA - The Tour Championship, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r– 11 p.m.) on Star Sports
LPGA Sports Today Open, Second Round at 3 p.m. on ESPN

CHESS BACKER

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. extended financial support in the amount of P500,000 to young chess prodigies of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines. The fund covered expenses during their participation in the recent World Age Group Chess Championship in Oropesa del Mar, Spain. Photo shows Pagcor Chair Efraim C. Genuino (third from right) and NCFP President Eugene Torre (extreme right) together with chessers (from left) Catherine Pereña, Christine Castellano, Oliver Barbosa, Karl Victor Ochoa, and Mark Paragua.

Stop clandestine jai-alai!

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT is alarming to know that the plea of the upright majority to stop the operations of jai-alai games has fallen on deft ears. According to reports, it's business as usual for fronton operators as they continue to run the "game of a thousand thrills" somewhere in Metro Manila.

And I also find disgusting that some tabloids even help in promoting the clandestine operation of jai-alai by publishing the day's program, results and dividends knowing fully well that these games are illegal and immoral because the operators, after collecting bets and making handsome profits do not pay taxes to the government.

Could the authorities be sleeping on their job?

A few weeks ago, several congressmen, led by Reps. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Federico Sandoval and Robert Ace Barbers, urged President Macapagal-Arroyo not to allow jai-alai operations to resume despite a recent Supreme Court decision allowing state-owned gaming agencies, in this case, the Philippine Amusement and gaming Corp., to reopen the frontons and collect bets.

"Jai-alai should not be allowed to rise from the ashes," Zubiri said. He added the government could not invoke extreme poverty in calling for the reopening of jai-alai even under the auspices of Pagcor which the Supreme Court decision of last Aug. 25 says has the franchise to run it. Zubiri stressed Pagcor's nationwide branches have been breaking record after record earned from gambling. "Even without jai-alai, these are boom, and not lean times, for gambling."

Meanwhile, Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said, "The President is firmly against any form of gambling and does not intend to allow Pagcor to resume operating jai-alai games." The President is against gambling as it undermines the moral fiber of the country. Tiglao said Pagcor should take the cue and abandon the idea of operating the jai-alai.

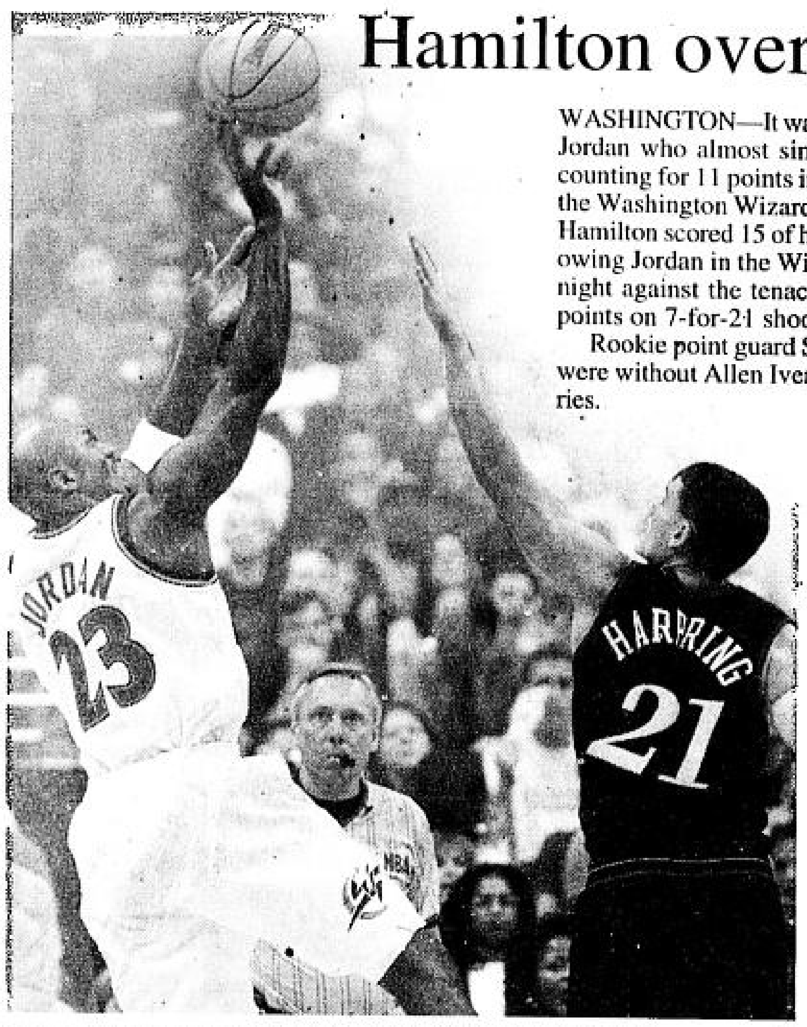
Thus sufficiently guided, our law enforcers should show more teeth, not much tail, by wielding the big stick against these operators and stopping their clandestine operations of the jai-alai games because that is their legal and moral responsibility to the public. The characters now running jai-alai are big disgrace to this ancient and fast-moving sport. Widely considered as the "game of a thousand thrills," jai-alai originated from the Basque region of northern Spain. In old Manila, the former fronton on Taft Avenue was operated by people respected in Philippine society. The game, however, lost its luster and good reputation when known gamblers like Atong Ang and Co. took over its management during the administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada, replacing decent and highly esteemed business tycoons. That was the beginning of the end.

* * *

For inquiries, call fax phone (044) 933-1214.

Wizards tame 76ers

Hamilton overshadows Jordan



JORDAN (left) shoots over Harpring in the first quarter. AP

WASHINGTON—It was the Wizards' Richard Hamilton rather than Michael Jordan who almost single-handedly made up a double-digit deficit, accounting for 11 points in a 13-0 game-tying run to swing the momentum to the Washington Wizards in 90-76 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers. Hamilton scored 15 of his 29 points in the third quarter Saturday, overshadowing Jordan in the Wizards' home opener. Jordan struggled much of the night against the tenacious defense of Matt Harpring and settled for 20 points on 7-for-21 shooting, nine assists and six rebounds.

Rookie point guard Speedy Claxton scored 22 points for the 76ers, who were without Allen Iverson, Aaron McKie and Eric Snow because of injuries.

Hawks 90, Heat 83

In Atlanta, Jason Terry scored 20 points and five other Atlanta players scored in double figures as the Hawks snapped a two-game losing streak with a victory over Miami.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim added 17 for the Hawks, and Nazr Mohammed and Dion Glover each had 13.

Alonzo Mourning scored 23 for the Heat, who lost their second straight. Eddie Jones had 17.

Nets 95, Hornets 85

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Keith Van Horn hit five 3-pointers and had 28 points and nine rebounds to lead New Jersey past Charlotte.

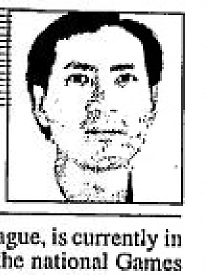
Kenyon Martin and Kerry Kittles each had 16 points and Jason Kidd had 10 and eight assists as the Nets won for the third time in four games. The start is the best for New Jersey since it won first four straight in 1997-98, the only time in the last seven seasons it has made the playoffs.

Elden Campbell had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and David Wesley added 16 for Charlotte, which lost for the first time in three games. Baron Davis scored 13, and Jamal Mashburn 14.

Complete results: Washington 90, Philadelphia 76; Atlanta 90, Miami 83; New Jersey 95, Charlotte 85; Chicago 84, New York 79; Orlando 99, Cleveland 69; Minnesota 90, Houston 88; Milwaukee 105, Boston 99; Sacramento 106, Denver 94; Utah 91, Seattle 74; San Antonio 106, Portland 90; Golden State 110, LA Clippers 108, OT. AP

Team transfers

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

WITH so many player shifts this season, one will need a huge scoreboard to find where your favorites now reside.

There are nearly a hundred familiar faces in new places among the 400-plus players on the rosters of the 29 NBA clubs at the start of the 2001-02 wars.

The Dallas Mavericks and Charlotte Hornets have the most number of veteran transfers from last season with six each.

The Mavs, who are expected to crowd the two-time defending NBA champion LA Lakers for top honors in the Western Conference, have added—through trades or free agency—guards Tim Hardaway (from Miami) and Darrick Martin(Sacramento), forward Ruben Wolkowyski (Seattle), swingman Adrian Griffin (Boston), forward-center Danny Manning (Utah) and center Evan Eschmeyer (New Jersey) on their roster. Martin and the Argentinian-born Wolkowyski were on the injured list at season's start.

Dallas released two other veteran newcomers, guards Muggsy Bogues (Toronto-New York) and Khalid El-Amin (Chicago), to keep Chinese Olympian Wang Zhizhi on the 12-man active list even though the 7-1 forward won't be available for service for the first month fo the season. Wang, who made NBA history last April by becoming the first Chinese ever to suit up in the league, is currently in his homeland to participate in the national Games with the Chinese national team. (Sydney Olympian teammate Menk Batere, who took part in Denver's training camp, was released by the Nuggets on Oct. 25, or five days before the start of the regulars.) The NBA denied the Mavs a roster exemption that would have allowed a replacement until Wang's return. Dallas could not put him on the disabled list since he was not injured.

Charlotte, which is expected to earn one of the eight playoff berths from the Eastern Conference, also overhauled its lineup from last campaign with six additions, including a pair on the injured list. They are forwards George Lynch (ex-Philadelphia 76er who is out at least eight weeks after undergoing foot surgery on Oct. 30), Matt Bullard (from Houston), Robert Traylor (from Cleveland) and Jerome Moiso (from Boston—injured), swingman Stacey Augmon (from Portland) and guard Bryce Drew (from Chicago).

Rodman ordered to pay casino dealer

LAS VEGAS—Dennis Rodman must pay a casino dealer $80,000 for rubbing dice on him in 1997, a jury ruled.

Rodman wasn't required to appear in the Clark County District Court case, and he didn't testify.

Former Mirage craps dealer James Brasich sought $300,000 in damages, claiming Rodman humiliated him.

It is the first of a series of lawsuits to go to trial against Rodman by people who say he mistreated them in Las Vegas casinos. AP

LGBA derby slated

SUBMISSION of weights to the prestigious LGBA Inaugural 6-Stag Derby is set for today (Nov. 8) at the Mandaluyong Coliseum, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

The two-day stagfest (Nov. 6 and 8) is being spearheaded by the newly organized Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association in cooperation with OPMI, operator of Mandaluyong Coliseum.

LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz said that the entire LGBA membership unanimously approved the holding of their derbies at Mandaluyong Coliseum because of its strict adherence to fairness and sportsmanship in holding derbies.

LGBA's board members are hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, Boy Jiao, lawyer Eleno Mendoza, engineer Jun Sevilla, Imelberto Hollero, Terence Mad-lambayan and Dr. Gil Nicolas (corporate secretary).

Winners of the Inaugural Derby will advance to the LGBA Semifinals 6-Stag Derby on Nov. 13 and 15. The championship round is set on Nov. 20 and 22, where the LGBA Stagfighter of the Year shall be chosen.

The event is sponsored by Washout Natural Insecticidal Shampoo, Wormal, Enertone (ready mix maintenance feeds) and the dynamic trio of Promoter '43, Respigen 15 and Voltplex.

OPMI president Vic Yu, operator of Mandaluyong Coliseum, will host a cocktail party today.

Roligon tourney

COCKFIGHT aficionados will see quality encounters with the holding of the PCS 5-Cock Season Opening Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City on Nov. 19, 21, 24 and 27.

Hosted by Philippine Cocking School (PCS) founder Ricky "Lakpue" Castillo Jr., the event has a guaranteed prize of P1 million for an entry fee of P7,700.

For information call Glo Mendoza at 911-89-69, 911-41-15, 911-4109 or Roligon at 833-1638, 833-22-75.

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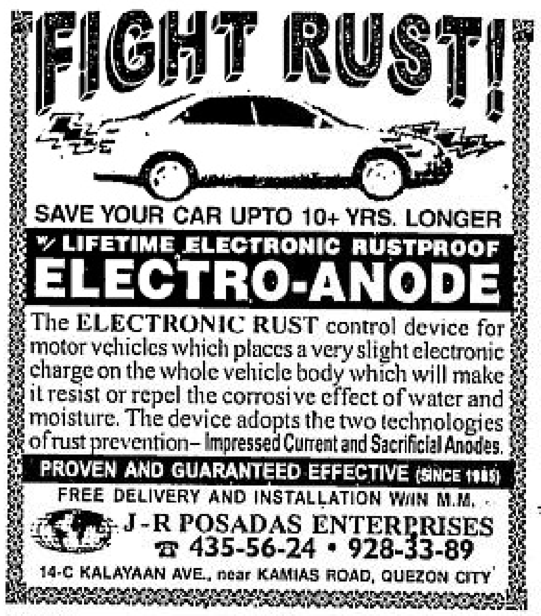

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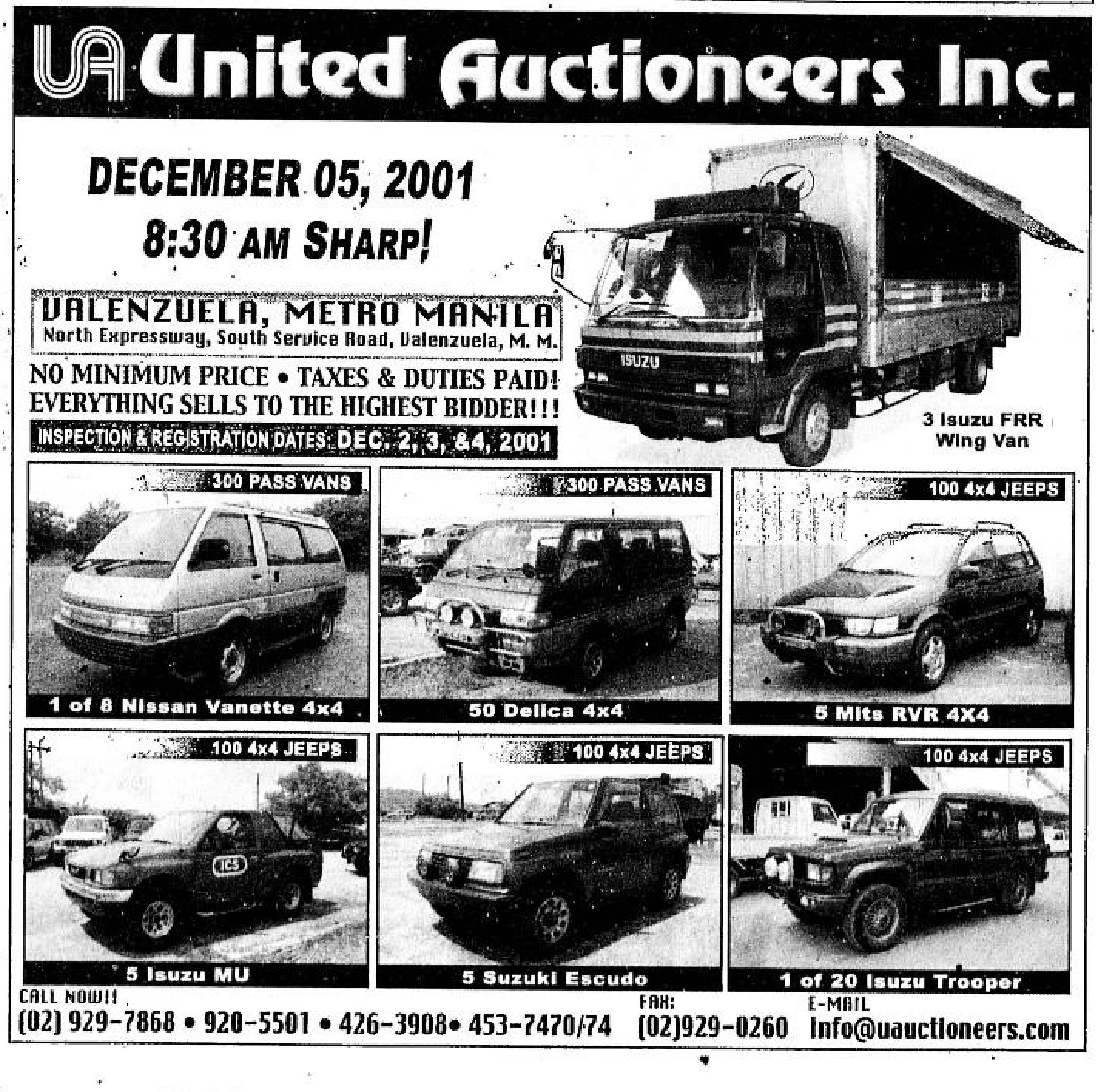

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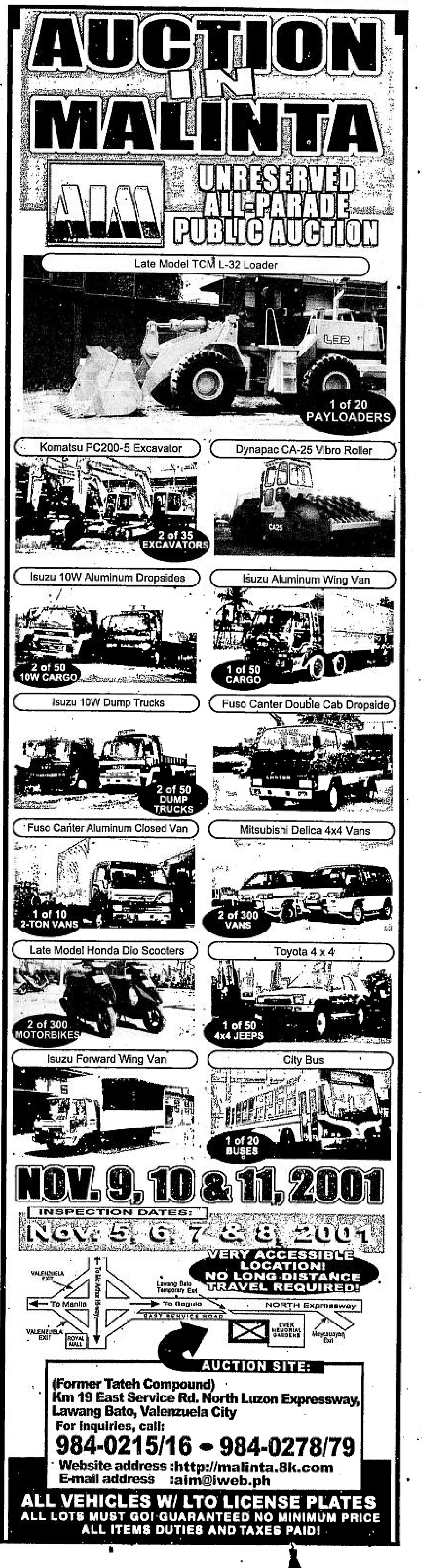

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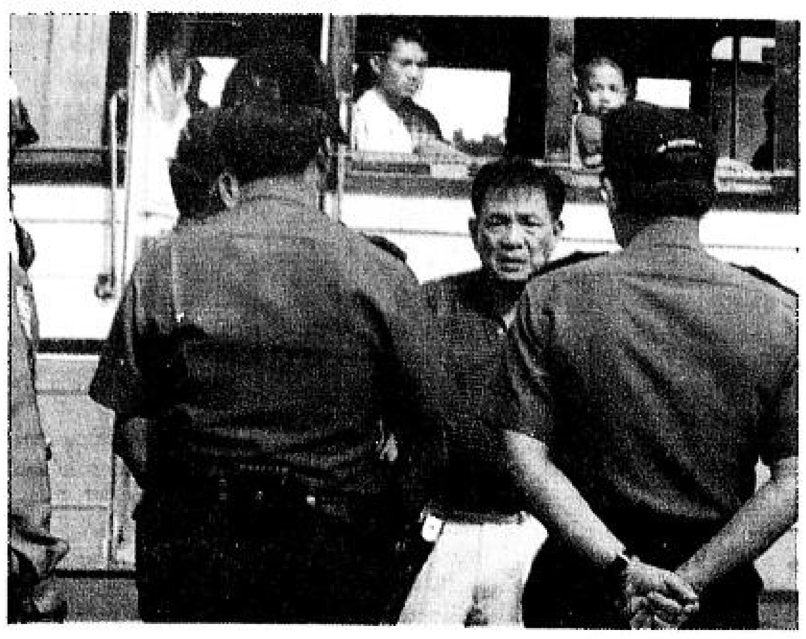

TRASH AND TRAFFIC
MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. is also trying to ease the traffic problem, aside from trying to find the answer to the garbage question. Anticipating heavy traffic due to the return of Metro Manila residents from out of town at the end of the long weekend, he went to the Balintawak interchange yesterday and gave specific instructions to MMDA traffic officers. JOAN BONDOC

New technology might solve garbage problem–Abalos

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THIS could be it, said garbage czar Benjamin Abalos of a new technology that would fully recycle all kinds of garbage in Metro Manila.

Abalos, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, has endorsed the technology to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for evaluation, hoping it could be the answer to the worsening garbage problem of the metropolis.

If the new technology works, "I think it can finally solve the garbage problem," Abalos yesterday told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"I think it's much better than a landfill or an incinerator, but it still has to be evaluated by the DENR," he said.

Developed by the US-based Interstate Waste Technologies Inc., the technology, called "thermoselect," uses high temperature to fully convert garbage, including toxic wastes, into useable minerals, potable water, and even clean air, according to Roger van den Berghe, Interstate's consultant in the Philippines.

Van den Berghe said the company would finance the $450-million project, which would be payable in 30 years under the build-operate-transfer scheme. The government only needs to provide an 8.5-hectare site in Metro Manila for the recycling plant, he said.

Emerging from a meeting with Abalos on Monday night, Van den Berghe said Abalos was "very pleased" after he and other Interstate representatives "were able to convince the MMDA chair of the merits of the nine-year-old technology,"

NEW TECHNOLOGY/A26

Ortigas could repossess Paref school's land

BY AGNES E. DONATO

QUEZON City could lose 3.1 hectares of prime land in Greenmeadows subdivision if the local government violated the conditions of donation set by donor Ortigas and Co. when the city entered into an agreement with the Paref-Northfield School for Boys.

The agreement between the city government and Paref-Northfield was made during the administration of former mayor Ismael Mathay Jr.

In a letter dated Oct. 31, Fernando Ortigas, general partner of Ortigas and Co., told Paref-Northfield administrators "to refrain and desist from making further representations that we have waived the restrictions on the deed of donation" of the land where Paref-Northfield was planning to build the school.

Ortigas sent a similar letter to Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte.

Ortigas and Co. specified certain conditions when it donated the land in Greenmeadows III to the city government on Dec. 3, 1981.

It restricted the use of the land to roads, streets, parks and playgrounds and prohibited city hall from selling or encumbering the land without the written consent of the donor.

While giving the government absolute control of the use of the land, Ortigas and Co. also mandated it to allow the homeowners association of Greenmeadows to participate "in regulating and supervising the use and enjoyment" of the land "to ensure the promotion of the general welfare of the residents."

Any violation on the part of the city government would give Ortigas and Co. the prerogative to repossess the land.

Ortigas said that last January, the company agreed to the proposed construction of a school on the donated land because of the following premises and assurances that Paref-Northfield had given.

- The project was for the general good;
- The affected communities support the project;
- No laws, ordinances and regulations would be violated;
- The traffic situation in the area will not be aggravated by the project; and
- Ortigas and Co. and its principals will be held free and harmless from any suit arising out of the "no objection" decision.

"Because of these assumptions, we did not anticipate the controversy and ill will generated by this project," Ortigas said in the letter.

At least 1,200 homeowners of surrounding subdivisions of Greenmeadows I and II have been opposing the construction of the school in their area.

On Oct. 20, the barangay council of Barangay Libis adopted a resolution supporting the revocation of the memorandum of agreement between Mathay and Paref-Northfield. Paref-Northfield earlier claimed it had the approval of the Libis barangay council.

Ortigas said the company would not waive the restrictions "until such time that you (Paref-

ORTIGAS/ A26

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1st Monthly Draw Winner	₱ 125,000.00	[illegible]
Week 4 Winner	₱ 75,000.00	Noel de Leon
Week 5 Winner	₱ 75,000.00	Elizabeth Imperial
Week 6 Winner	₱ 75,000.00	Earl Richardson Chua
2nd Monthly Draw Winner	₱ 200,000.00	Leilani Tejada
Week 7 Winner	₱ 100,000.00	[illegible]

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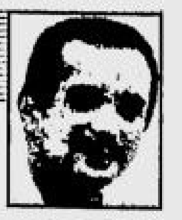


Recah Trinidad

(TOAST FROM SPAIN: A hug and handshake for Señor Sergio Fiorentini, international brand manager for wines and brandy of the Torres Distillery. The quiet, young executive is here to introduce a line of vintages, including sparkling Agua d'Or that has made Torres S.A. of Vilafranca del Penedes in Barcelona the most important winery in the whole of Spain today. Señor Sergio is here also to thank local dealers for having made Torres 10 brandy the best-selling brand in the local market today.)

***

THE widow showed up with her American husband but the fans did not seem to mind. Her coming was a big success. Ms Jeanette Lee's pool table date with local billiards icon Efren "Bata" Reyes scored big on the sales chart.

In fact, several reporters, whom Casino Filipino guards refused to allow into the Viva-organized show, had to cover the event in front of TV sets installed outside the arena.

Credit for the hysteria should go to the overly imaginative press release writer who masterfully spent his astonishingly rich adjectives on the ravishing visitor. Take a bow, Mr. Ronnie.

Unfortunately, not even the best words and labels could save the event.

The showdown, which definitely was no showdown, ended up a horrible mismatch.

Fans could cry they had been shortchanged; the way SkyCable is ripping off cable TV subscribers with its adulterated, only-twice-a-week, NBA package.

But, mind you, the fellow who ended up an unwilling victim of that Saturday night rip–off was Bata Reyes himself.

***

Here is how it happened.

After his second straight failure in the Cardiff World Pool Championship and a surprising inability to land a single gold medal in the 21st Southeast Asian Games, Bata's supposed showdown with Ms Jeanette Lee was meant to be a comeback of sorts.

It definitely was not in the magnitude of Michael Jordan's Third Coming last week, but that pool event with the married Black Widow was intended to show that Efren the Magician still has the fire and appetite for winning.

Sorry to say this but, as early as midway in the mismatch, the project promoters had already failed miserably in marketing Bata Reyes as the win-win master of old.

Reason: The protagonists played at opposite ends of the pool table.

And this was not caused by gender difference alone.

The main characters simply played at awfully contrasting levels, with Reyes getting no serious challenge whatsoever.

***

Anyway, it should warm the hearts of the feminists among us that Ms Lee has pushed the popularity of pool a notch higher among female adherents of the game here.

There will be a new breed of shapely players that will be reporting regularly to nearby pool parlors, most of them in tight, comely black attire, freshly shampooed locks flowing down the shoulders.

We should indeed be thankful that they had sent a lovely representative of the game over here.

Jeanette Lee did make a few commendable shots, including a neat draw (*pa-atras*) that netted the nine-ball in the opposite corner pocket.

She also did a remarkable topspin shot, ala Bata the Magician. But, in the end, she had to throw in the towel, her handkerchief to be exact.

The score, 13-5, was awfully wider than the final outcome.

***

Vinancio "Tucao" Tanio, did make up for a shaky showing in the SEA Games by outfoxing the atrociously erratic Lee Van Corteza in their own Battle of Rising Stars.

And Bata Reyes? Repeat: His supposed match with the Black Widow was so one-sided that Bata failed to officially achieve anything worthwhile with that non-feat.

In fairness to Bata Reyes, he played it like a true gentleman by refusing to carry her female foe.

But, after the all-revealing mismatch, over-excited promoters would do well to discourage future events of this uneven, lopsided sort.

If we have to give Bata Reyes and Pinoy billiards their deserved degree of respect, promoters should work for the staging of worthy, pertinent contests in the future.

Local pool indeed needs a big winner again.

But Jeanette Lee, as there are yet no local female pool competitors of her class and caliber, would serve the purpose better if she comes back not to play pool but play a role in a movie.

With her shape and stunning appeal, she could give Joyce Jimenez and Rica Peralejo a run for their money.

Of course, it goes without saying that, after being marketed as a widow, she should not again allow her husband to tag along.

The press release writer may not be able to mount those super-charged adjectives again.

To bar or not to bar

By Christian V. Esguerra

OFFICIALS of the University of Santo Tomas are in a quandary as to whether to allow four of their students linked to the abduction and murder of engineering student Mark Welson Chua to attend today's opening of second-semester classes.

Chua's father Welson yesterday said a UST official had proposed to bar from the school Michael Von Rainard Manangbao, Eduardo Tabrilla, Paul Joseph Tan, and Patrick Christopher Cruz pending the investigation of their alleged involvement in Chua's murder.

But the school administration would still have to conduct deliberations to determine if the four students would be prohibited from attending class for a specified period, a UST source told the INQUIRER.

The source said some officials favored their exclusion, saying the four young men's alleged involvement in the case had brought dishonor to UST.

Welson earlier urged school officials to ban the four to prevent them from threatening fellow cadet officers who testified against them.

Three witnesses, all members of the UST Reserve Officers Training Corps, had executed affidavits before the National Bureau of Investigation linking the four to the abduction and killing of Chua last March.

Chua was 19. He was also an ROTC cadet.

Welson last Friday told INQUIRER that one of the witnesses told him the witness and the suspects were part of a kidnap-for-ransom group formed two years ago. This group abducted and killed the younger Chua last March 15, Welson said, quoting the witness.

The slain cadet's father said UST officials had offered a home study program for the witnesses or to house them on campus during the semester for security reasons.

In their affidavits, the witnesses said that on the night Chua was abducted, they saw the suspects in the UST ROTC office conducting a supposed "initiation rite" on a man who was hog-tied and whose head was wrapped with packing tape.

Three days later, Chua's body was found floating in the Pasig River. His head was wrapped in packing tape.

His hands and feet were tied with black shoelaces.

Chua was murdered after he exposed alleged anomalies in UST's ROTC program.

His revelations led to the relief of UST ROTC commandant Maj. Demy Tejares and his staff. It also triggered a campaign to abolish the student military program.

Fetuses dumped in Pasig

By Philip C. Tubeza

A MEMBER of the Coast Guard yesterday said he witnessed four men dumping on the banks of the murky Pasig River several bottles containing human fetuses, a dissected frog, a human brain and intestines.

Lt. Angelo Espragante, a member of the Parola Compound Coast Guard Department, was inspecting the barges docked at the riverbank near the corner of Mella de la Industria and Madrid Street in Binondo between 3:30 and 4 a.m. yesterday when the men arrived on board an Elf truck, said investigator Sgt. Athos de Quiros of the Western Police District homicide section.

Espragante told police the men left hurriedly after throwing the bottles, the biggest of which was about a foot tall. He said he became curious and retrieved the bottles when he saw them floating in the river.

Of the 10 bottles he recovered, seven contained fetuses, one of which was about five months old, police said. One bottle contained a dissected frog, another the human brain and another the intestines.

Police said the men who threw the bottles might be employees of a medical school or a hospital. The bottles were also filled with alcohol, police said.

"The fetuses and other body parts might be specimens that had outlived their use," De Quiros said. "So they were simply thrown away. But they should have buried these instead of just throwing them in the river.

"We usually find fetuses in boxes or (floating) in creeks but the suspects there are unwed mothers," De Quiros added. "This is the first time we found seven fetuses all at the same time."

'Rebels set to strike again in Rizal'

RIZAL provincial police claimed they have received intelligence reports that communist rebels were planning to strike remote areas of the province to avenge the deaths last month of four of their comrades in Antipolo City.

A ranking official of the Rizal Provincial Police Office, who asked not to be named, said the local intelligence community intercepted an order of the Communist Party of the Philippines directing local cadres to intensify preparations for counter actions, which could include armed assaults in Rizal.

The regional party committee also directed the local leaders to hold a "*luksang parangal*" and other protest actions as tributes to farmers Raul Maguiza, 38, Dominador Aniceto, 36; Emiliano de la Rosa, 48 and his 26-year-old son Reynaldo, the source said.

Members of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force killed the four farmers last Oct. 21 in an alleged shootout in Sitio Casunugan, Barangay San Isiro, a mountainous area of Antipolo City at the border of Quezon and Rizal provinces.

Records showed that Senior Insp. Ericson Dilag, PO2 Ronald Cuya, PO2 Ernesto Bautista, PO2 Gatmar Jatalis, PO2 Pablito de la Cruz, PO1 Glen Salcedo and PO1 Crispin Cultinio, all members of the PNP-SAF based in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig, were monitoring a suspected NPA camp when they encountered the four men who were all armed with shotguns.

Nelson F. Flores

Another karaoke customer slain

A FIGHT for control of the microphone in a karaoke bar in Tondo, Manila led to the death yesterday of a man, police said.

Ronnie P. Aragon, of Tondo, did not make it alive to the hospital after Ricky Herrera allegedly shot him in the head, said investigator PO3 Rodelo Lingcong of the Western Police District homicide section.

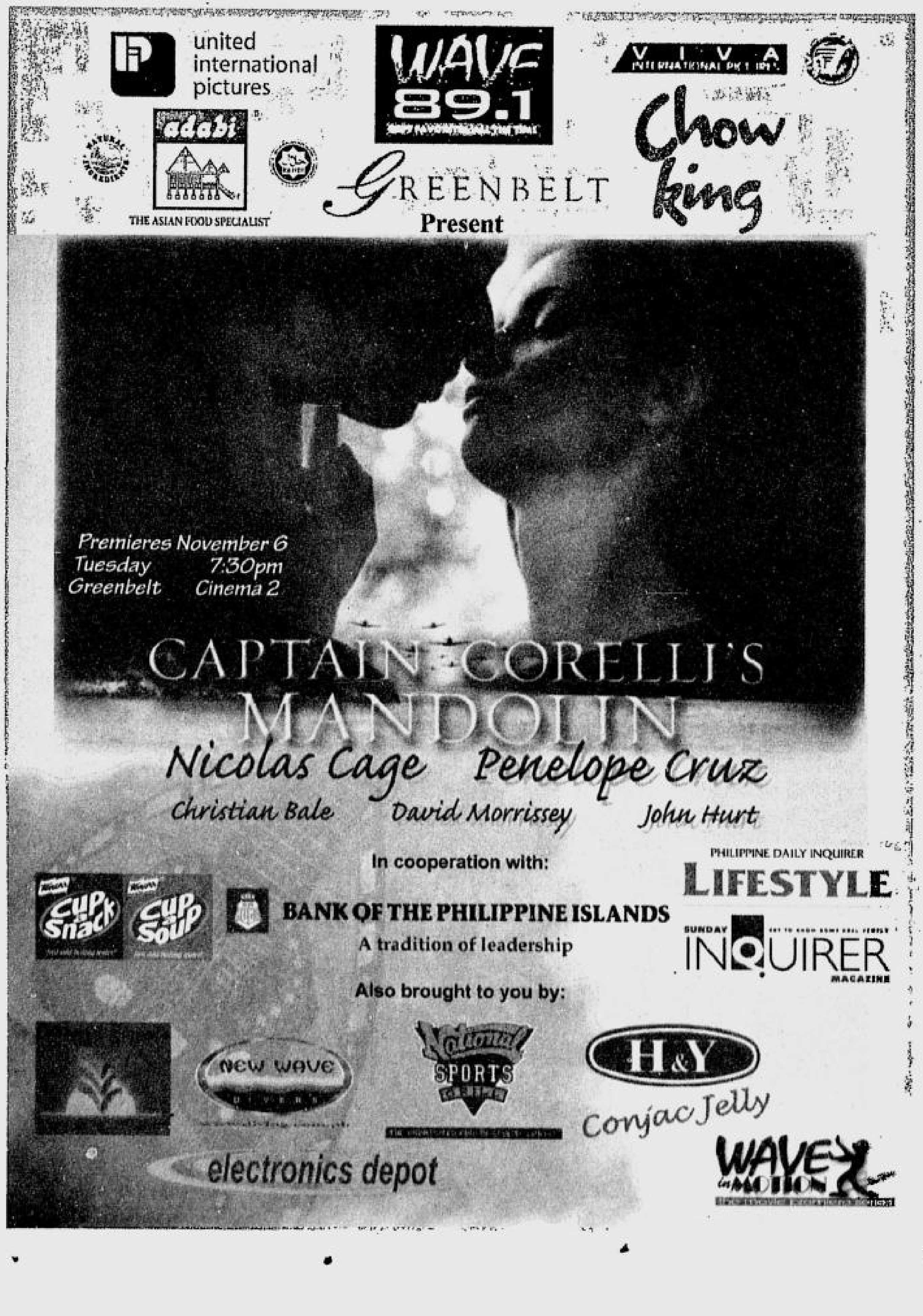
Aragon and Herrera were drinking in the karaoke bar near the corner of Pitong Gatang and Odessey streets in Bangkusay, Tondo when the shooting happened at 12:05 a.m. yesterday, police said.

Both men wanted to sing and fought over who should sing first, police said. Their quarrel apparently ended when Herrera left the bar.

But Herrera returned with a handgun of unknown caliber, police said. He chanced upon Aragon who was walking home, followed him and then shot him in the back of the head, police said.

Herrera ran away as Aragon was brought to the Mary Johnston hospital where he was declared dead on arrival, police said.

Philip C. Tubeza



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Bacoor dump closed, mayor insists

BACOOR Mayor Jessie B. Castillo yesterday insisted that the dumpsite in the Cavite town is already closed.

Castillo in a statement referred to two supposedly in-depth reports aired recently by a television station. He said the reporters had sought him out to ask him why he was allowing the continued operation of a dumpsite in Villa Esperanza in Barangay Molino III which was already rehabilitated and closed.

"I told the two TV reporters that that garbage facility had already been closed down," Castillo said. "I even asked them to take their crew to the dumpsite and take video footages. I was aghast to see the second of these reports aired last weekend showing not the Villa Esperanza dump but a different one.

"Would I be happy with that kind of reporting?" he added.

The mayor said majority of the town's residents, mostly homeowners in Bacoor's more than 100 subdivisions, have been pressing him to seek the approval of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to reopen the Villa Esperanza garbage facility.

"Really, we don't have a dumpsite to use right now, but the good news is that we are presently developing a new garbage facility that will compost wastes," he said. "The new garbage site was already pre-inspected and pre-cleared by the DENR. It could be operational in three months' time, depending on weather conditions."

He said the garbage crisis in Bacoor was not helped any by his detractors "who have made it their lifetime preoccupation to criticize whatever I do and say. Joining their ranks are some of our barangay officials whom we prosecuted for their wrongdoings and who get back at us by waging a misinformation campaign."

He pointed out that the garbage problem is a national problem.

"Why are media always focusing on Bacoor?" he asked. "Our town is just beside Metro Manila whose garbage crisis is much, much worse. What is it about Bacoor that always attracts national coverage? I cannot help but think that all this is politically-motivated."

Ortigas could repossess . . .

(From page A25)

Northfield) can deliver the 'hold free and harmless' resolution to us, that you can warrant the community support for the project and that there are no laws, ordinances and regulations violated."

The Paref-Northfield spokesperson, lawyer Victoriano V. Oracio, refuted what he said were "lies being peddled" by the Coalition of Homeowners Associations (Coha).

Coha has pointed out that the use of the property required the consent of other subdivisions in the area and that the use of an open space in the area would deprive the surrounding subdivisions of useable public areas.

"Coha should be asked if Greenmeadows I and II also secured the prior written consent of Greenmeadows III homeowners and lot owners before they constructed various facilities in their open spaces," Oracio said in a statement. "It is a known fact that they built basketball gyms, learning centers, tennis courts and even swimming pools in their respective open areas."

"The (Paref-Northfield) school will not deprive them of open spaces because they already have their own," Oracio said. "In fact, with the school there, facilities will be built such as a football field, a basketball court, and pathways that can be used by all residents.

"Maybe the real reason they do not want the school is that half of its high school population will come from the poorer youths of Quezon City who will be given scholarships," he added. "We would like to assure the residents that there would be transport services that would pick up the scholars from designated points."

He claimed that several subdivisions in the area have chosen to remain neutral on the controversy, while parents have expressed support for the project.

"This leads us to believe that the opposition to the project is just a small group," Oracio said. "Very vocal, but small."

New technology might . . .

(From page A25)

which is currently used in major cities in Europe.

Abalos yesterday said that after the DENR has made its evaluation, he would meet with Van den Berghe to discuss the technology more extensively.

Before Monday's meeting with Abalos, it took Interstate at least a month to get appointments with MMDA officials to present the technology, according to Van den Berghe.

The MMDA is studying the setting up of a facility in Bagac, Bataan to accommodate Metro Manila's garbage, but Bagac residents have been rejecting the idea.

Interstate representatives went to the MMDA to introduce thermoselect, saying the technology could completely recycle half of the 6,000-ton daily garbage in the metropolis.

Van den Berghe said the company is negotiating with local governments the setting up of similar facilities in Cebu, Dagupan, Baguio, San Fernando and Olongapo.

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8	DON'T SAY A WORD
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11	JOY RIDE
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2 (DTS)	

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(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	HIYAS
3	DOS EKIS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MANANABAS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	13 DAYS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE BODY
2	NAKED NIGHT
3	
4 (DTS EX)	LEGALLY BLONDE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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1 THX	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	DOWN TO EARTH
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	TRAINING DAY
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE
7	LEGALLY BLONDE
8	DOS EKIS
9	LEGALLY BLONDE
10	AMERICAN PIE 2

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	TRAINING DAY
4	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE
5	DOS EKIS
6	DOWN TO EARTH
7	DON'T SAY A WORD

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	DOS EKIS
6	DOS EKIS
7	GHOST OF MARS
8	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	DOS EKIS
3	SAKIM
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	DOWN TO EARTH
6	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	OSMOSIS JONES
2	THE BODY
3	MANANABAS
4	THE HOLE
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
6	13 DAYS

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SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	IRA / CLIMAX
ODEON	DOS EKIS
ODEON-2	TRAINING DAY
ROBEN	HIYAS SA PARAISO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	BROTHERHOOD / STOP

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HIYAS SA PARAISO
REMAR	DOS EKIS
REMAR-2	MANANABAS

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
B	DOS EKIS
C	ROSARIO 18

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-2	LEGALLY BLONDE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	SISID
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	DOS EKIS

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

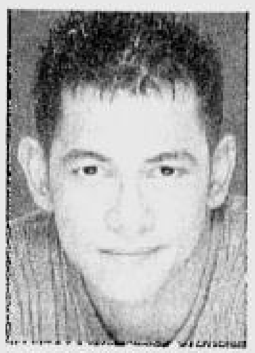
CINEMA-1	JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK
CINEMA-2	DOWN TO EARTH
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-5	GHOST OF MARS
CINEMA-6	DON'T SAY A WORD

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	AMORSEKO
CINEMA-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-4	DIBDIBAN ANG LABAN



VALENCIANO

Most awarded artist

GARY Valenciano has proven once more why he is one of the top male performers in local music.

At the 14th Awit Awards held recently at the AFP Theater, Gary bagged the male recording artist trophy for the song, "Lupa," a revival of a Rico J. Puno original.

To date, Gary has collected over 35 trophies and earned countless nominations from different award-giving bodies for his albums.

In the 14th Awit Awards, Gary also won best major concert act (male) for "Radical," a concert he conceptualized and directed, which is now touring the country.

"Lupa" is the third single culled from Gary's latest album, "Revive," under Universal Records. The album comes with a VCD containing the videos of "Lupa" and "I Will Be Here," both directed by Boom Dayupay.

With the awards, Gary has maintained his status as one of the most awarded male performers in the local entertainment scene. He is also the busiest, with several campus tours, provincial shows, TV appearances and trips abroad.

He just renewed his contract with Alaska Milk and has been chosen by a leading international company to launch his own microphone in December.

In Naga City, Bacolod, Baguio and Davao, Gary performed in jampacked venues. He also staged a successful concert, "X-Static," at the Araneta Coliseum last month.

As Unicef Ambassador of Goodwill, Gary visited schools and health care centers in Guimaras. He also participated in the midterm review of the country program for children at the World Health Organization building last month.

In the United States, Gary has done shows in eight cities, plus performances in Thailand and New Zealand.

He also took time out to grace the anniversary celebration of Lord of the Harvest Global Ministries, held last month at the Morino Hall in Chiba-Ken, Japan.

Gary's management company, Manila Genesis Entertainment, announced that Gary will soon release an Asian album under MCA Universal, a sister company of Universal Records.

He performs at the Luneta on Nov. 22 at the Clark Expo for the PICPA Convention in Pampanga on Nov. 28 and Cebu Waterfront Hotel on Dec. 2.

Gary will also be seen in an explosive interview with Boy Abunda, as one of the 10 most interesting personalities for an ABS-CBN TV special. He is featured in a back to back segment with Martin Nievera.

For more news and updates on Gary, visit his official website at www.garyv.com, which was among the semi-finalists in this year's Philippine Web Awards for celebrities and personalities category. Or inquire via e-mail at genesis@compass.com.ph.

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

QUIZ Show host: What is IQ?

Contestant: Intelligent quotation!

(Doesn't apply to you, obviously.)

* * *

Host: How many are you in your family?

Guest: I Have two order sisters and one order brother.

(You're out of order!)

* * *

Host: Why did you stop acting when you got married two years ago?

Former starlet: Because my husband wanted me to become a plain house?

(That's quite a trick!)

* * *

Host: Your former best friend has been saying very bad things about you. What is your reaction!

Starlet: Of course, galit ako. I feel betrayed!

Host: What do you want to say to her? Now's your chance.

Starlet: Ito lang: Don't ridicule me in front of my face at the back of my back!

(Ano daw?)

* * *

Host: What is the traffic scheme for All Saints' Day and All Souls Day

Field reporter: It aims to reroute the traffic near the major cemeteries sa araw ng patay, to make it easier for them na dadalaw sa kani-kanilang mga puntod.
(Ah, please repeat?)

* * *

Quiz show host: How many times does the Earth rotate around the sun in one year?

Contestant: 365 times!

(Whee!)

* * *

Quiz show host: What is the primary ingredient in an omelet?

Contestant: Crab!

(Huh?)

* * *

Newscaster: Dahil sa pagsara ng Dos Palmas resort, may nagsasabi na ito ay banta na babagsak na ang industriya ng terorismo sa bansa, lalo na sa Mindanao.

(She said it, she really said it!)

* * *

Newscaster: The official said that, to counteract rumors involving some of his personnel, he has ordered all of his staffers to submit to drug tasting.

(Yum, yum!)

Host: What did you observe when you visited the Filipino communities abroad last month?

Guest: They are trying too hard to look like foreigners. They even change the colors of their eyes to prove that they are from Europes!

(Ay, Europes!)

Movies on TV

Some viewable films on the Cinemax channel this week: Wednesday, Nov. 7, 12 p.m., "Shakespeare in Love." This film won Oscars for best picture, actress and supporting actress, was also honored by the Golden Globes and was on many critics' Top 10 lists.

It also has an incisive screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, as well as a gifted stellar cast: Gwyneth Paltrow, Joseph Fiennes, Ben AFfleck, Geoffrey Rush and Judi Dench.

Th is humorous and touching movie about a young Will Shakespeare finding love and inspiration is a must-see.

2 p.m., "White Christmas." Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye play army buddies who boost the popularity of a winter resort run by their ex-officer (Dean Jagger). This classic 1954 romantic comedy has a tuneful Irving Berlin score with delightful seasonal tunes that will make you feel Christmas-y in November.

Before . . .

(From page A30)

Youth and idealism go hand in hand. When we're young, we feel we have the license to make too many demands and requirements of the person we say we love. Sadly, when it's all over, we realize not only that we were unrealistic, but what we asked for was unfair and unattainable.

When you live with a person, all the quirks start to come out. Sometimes they can lead to dissatisfaction. Sometimes, if you're lucky, they just make the person more loveable.

For as long as his admirable qualities outshine and obscure his perceivable weakness, then what's the big deal? As long as your differences aren't fundamental (religion, politics, or family values), then acceptance is the way to go.

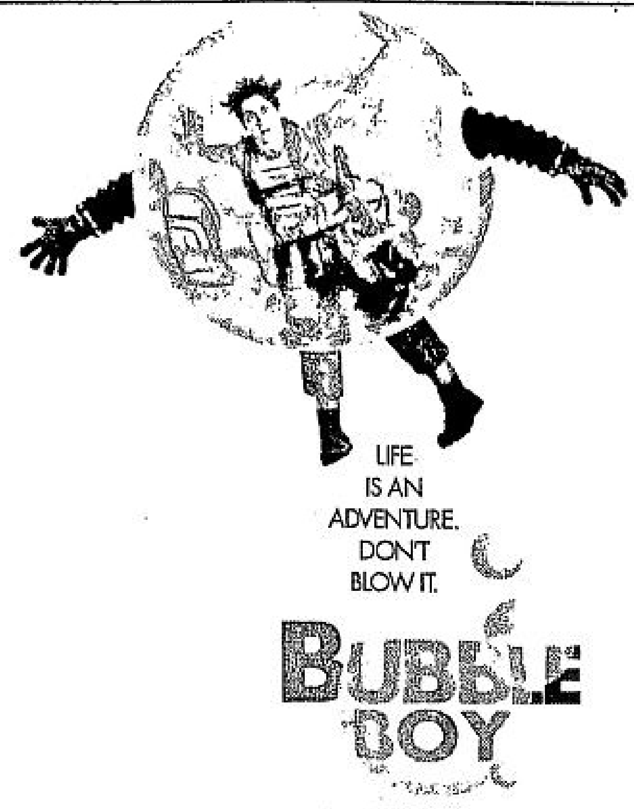
- If he's The One, then he matters most.

Priorities. Family first, and the head of the family comes first. Your career goals are important, but do they really matter as much as your family? Be sensitive to his sense of self worth.

Economics. It's a partnership, and you're both managing partners regardless of where the capital input came from. But in terms of voting shares, give him 51 percent to your 49. Don't we normally become more responsible when we feel that we're trusted enough to live up to the challenge? All the more with the masculine gender. Leadership opportunities are what will hone great leaders.

PIDO WITH TAKE ONE AT 8TH DAY

The infectious melody and haunting lyrics of Pido With Take One's latest single, "Bakit Di Mo Pansisn," has reverberated to the pop charts. The song is culled from the group's self-titled debut album under MCA-Universal. Pido With Take One is composed of Pido Lalimarmo (lead vocals), Eva Marie Poon (vocals), Marlowe Mata (bass, vocals), Gino Cruz (keyboards), Leevon Cailao (guitars) and Benjie Ijiran (drums). This month, the band performs Monday nights at 8th Day Bar at St. Francis Square, Ortigas Center. Pido With Take One dishes out a varied repertoire of the latest pop hits, '80s classics, acoustic revival and contemporary jazz tunes. For inquiries, call 750-0098.



SM ADVANCE SCREENING CINEMA

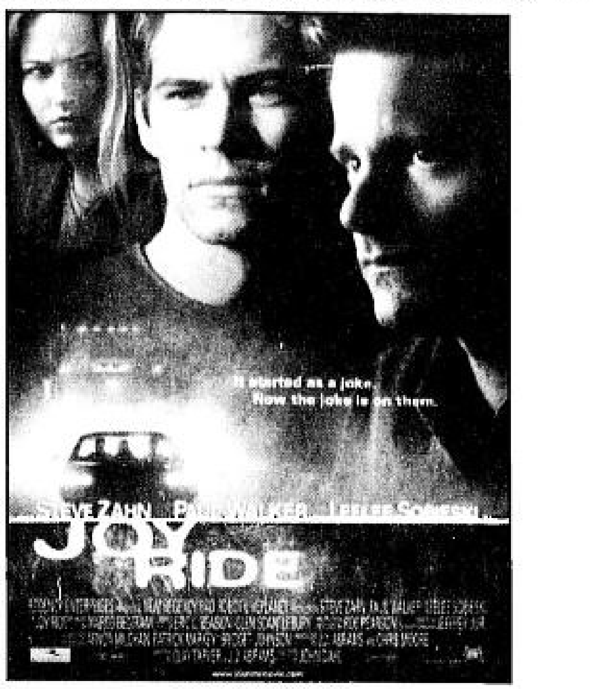
LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. DON'T BLOW IT.

BUBBLE BOY

Invitational DZMB Screening on Nov. 5, 2001 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 3

MTRCB PG13

Regular showing starts Nov. 7 at the SM CINEMAS.



SM CINEMA

BE THE FIRST
TO WATCH THE
SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW OF

JOY RIDE

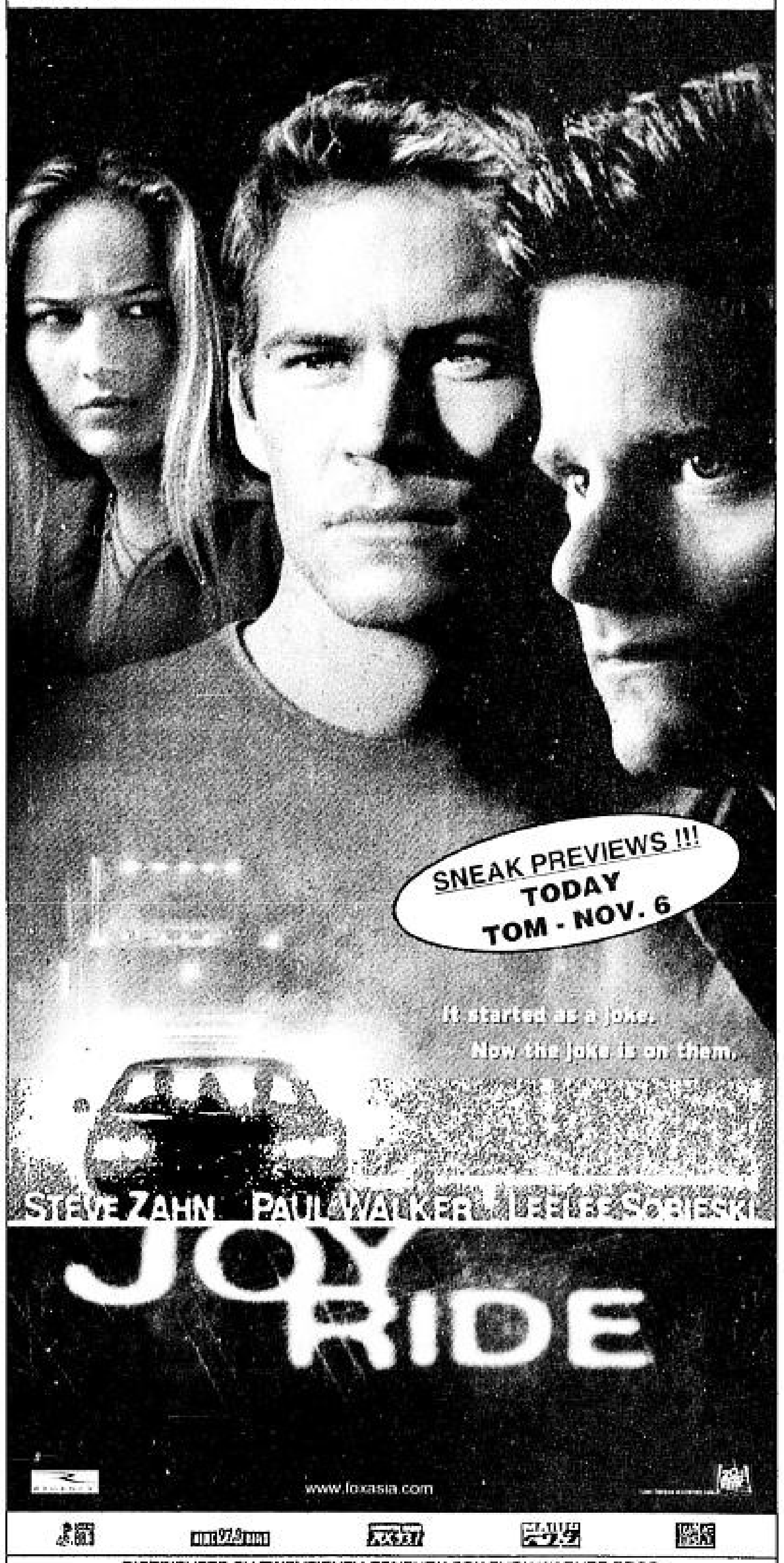
MTRCB RATING: PG13

Tickets available on
November 5 (Mon)
November 6 (Tue)

SM MANILA • NORTH EDSA • MEGAMALL • BACOOR
SOUTHMALL • FAIRVIEW • CENTERPOINT

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT
'COZ THIS WILL BE ONE HELL OF A RIDE!



SNEAK PREVIEWS !!!
TODAY
TOM - NOV. 6

It started as a joke.
Now the joke is on them.

STEVE ZAHN PAUL WALKER LEELEE SOBIESKI

JOY RIDE

www.foxasia.com

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OPENS NOV. 14

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POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK - R 18 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:50, 10:00	DOWN TO EARTH - P 13 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
TRAINING DAY - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	GHOST OF MARS - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE.
DON'T BLOW IT.

Bubble BOY

IMAGINE LIVING YOUR LIFE INSIDE
A PLASTIC BUBBLE...

Meet Jimmy Livingston (Jake Gyllenhaal), a 17-year-old kid who has all the normal experiences of a boy growing up, except he lives in a plastic bubble.

Then he falls in love, but the girl he wants will marry another---if he does not stop the wedding in time.
So, Jimmy builds a bubble suit.

The movie is an outrageously funny road trip across the U.S., where Jimmy meets bikers, rock stars, freaks and a cult, racing against time and his parents, who are determined to bring him back to the safety of his "bubble room."

A hilarious coming-of-age comedy for anyone who has ever been in love.
LOOK OUT, WORLD, HERE COMES BUBBLE BOY!

OPENS IN CINEMAS ON NOV. 14

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THE ONE
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
SONY.COM/THEONE

All-new 'MATRIX'-style sci-fi actioner

Jet Li vs. Jet Li in 'THE ONE'

What if you discovered the most dangerous man in the universe was you?

Jet Li the hero and Jet Li the villain square off in Columbia Pictures' new stunt & special efx-packed sci-fi action thriller, "The One."

The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.

"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

Bakbakan na! OPENS NOV 7!

AYALA CINEMAS ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4 Art Film
NEXT ATTRACTION

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

"Beautiful And Powerful!"
"Two Thumbs Up!"

BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

The Best Film About The Impact of The Spanish War @ ARTFILM - Glorietta 4

In the tradition of "Cinema Paradiso," BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE explores the extraordinary relationship between a shy young boy, Moncho, and his incredibly compassionate teacher, Don Gregorio, who teaches Moncho to find his way in a world that is increasingly frightening. When the Spanish Civil war breaks out on July 18, 1936, everything for the boy and his hero will unexpectedly change.

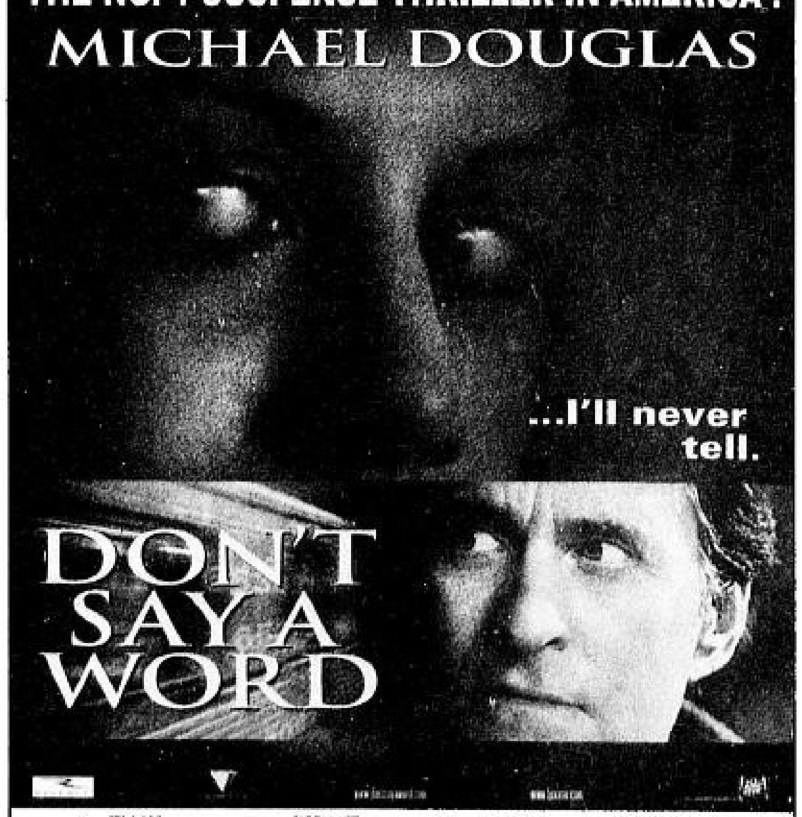
BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE stars the Spanish legend FERNANDO FERNAN GOMEZ who has a career that spans five decades as an actor, novelist, poet, and director. In 1998, he won the Goya (Spanish Oscar) for Best Lead Actor for his latest film "The Grandfather." The film also stars MANUEL LOZANO, UXIA BLANCO, GONZALO MARTIN URIARTE, ALEXIS de los SANTOS and GUILLERMO TOLEDO. The film won Best Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival & Best Screenplay at the Goya Awards.

Directed by JOSÉ LUIS CUERDA and written by RAFAEL AZCONA, BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE is based upon the MANUEL RIVAS novel Que Me Quieres, Amor?.

Language: Spanish with English subtitles

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Parents Strongly Cautioned in bringing children of tender age due to some violent scenes.

THE NO. 1 SUSPENSE THRILLER IN AMERICA !
MICHAEL DOUGLAS



...I'll never tell.

DON'T SAY A WORD

DISTRIBUTED BY 20TH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.

NOW SHOWING

starting TODAY!
Araw-araw, gabi-gabi,
milyun-milyong piso ang premyo!
GMA and
present
Korek na Korek Ka D'yan!
PRIMETIME EDITION
3 ways to win P1 million!
Mas madaling sumali!
Mas madaling manalo!
Mas malaki ang premyo!
Mas masaya!

NOONTIME CONTESTANT

Monday-Friday within Eat Bulaga

A. How to Join

1. Isulat sa papel ang inyong pangalan, edad, tirahan, telepono, antas ng pinag-aralan, trabaho at lagda.
2. Ipadala ito sa:

Broadway Centrum,
Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue cor. Aurora Blvd., Quezon City

3. Isang daang entries ang ido-draw kada araw.
4. Tatawagan ang mga nabunot para sa preliminary testing.
5. Mula sa mga papasa sa preliminary test, sampu ang bubunutin para maglaro sa Korek Ka D'yan sa Eat Bulaga
6. Maaring sumali ang edad 18 pataas, nakatira sa Luzon at GMA.
7. Ang deadline para sa application ay sa November 24, 2001.

B. Noontime Game

1. Sampung studio contestants ang maglalaban-laban sa Karambola Round. Ang walong di mananalo sa round na ito ay tatanggap ng tig-P1,000.00
2. Ang dalawang matitira mula sa Karambola Round ang maglalaban sa Karera Round. Ang di mananalo ay tatanggap ng P1,000.00.
3. Ang mananalo sa Karera Round ay magtutuloy sa P25 Thousand Warm-Up Round. Magkano man ang mapanalunan ng natitirang contestant sa Eat Bulaga, automatic na siya ang kakalabanin ng winning contestant sa Korek na Korek Ka D'yan Primetime Edition.

PRIMETIME CONTESTANT

Monday-Friday 7:30 p.m. • Saturday 6:30 p.m.

A. How to Join

1. Tawag lang sa 1908-1234567. P 10 kada minuto ang halaga ng bawat tawag.
2. Sundin lang ang instructions na maririnig. Mamili ng playing date at sagutin ang tanong. Pag korek ang sagot iwan ang pangalan, edad, tirahan, at contact number, at may chance ka nang sumali!
3. Mula sa lahat ng callers, sampu ang pipiliin (randomly selected ng computer) kada araw para maglaro sa Korek na Korek Ka D'yan Primetime Edition.
4. Maaring sumali ang mga 18-taong gulang pataas, nakatira sa Luzon at GMA.

B. Primetime Game

1. Maglalaban-laban ang sampung studio contestants sa Ano 'Yan? Elimination Roud.
2. Ang matibay na matitira ay kakalabanin ang winning noontime contestant sa Karera Round. Lahat ng di mananalo ay tatanggap ng tig-P 1,000.00.
3. Ang mananalo sa Karera Round ang aabante sa 1-Million Peso Jackpot Round.

HOME PARTNER

1. Isulat sa papel ang inyong pangalan, edad, tirahan, telepono, at lagda, kasama ang alinmang kombinasyon ng mga sumusunod na proofs of purchase:

SAFEGUARD SOAP
any variant
(4) pcs. 25g wrapper or
(2) pcs. 90g carton or
(1) pc. 135g carton or

ULTRA TIDE ALL PURPOSE
any variant
(6) pcs. 32g sachet or
(1) 200g pouch or
(1) 500g pouch or
(1) 1kg pouch or
(1) 1.6kg pouch or

NISSIN'S YAKISOBA (Pouch) or
NISSIN'S RAMEN (Pouch)
any variant and size
(3) pcs. pouch or

PANTENE SHAMPOO or
CONDITIONER any variant
(8) pcs. 7.5ml sachets or
(1) 100ml bottle or
(1) 200ml bottle or

ULTRA TIDE NATURE FRESH
any variant
(6) pcs. 32g sachet or
(1) 200g pouch or
(1) 500g pouch or
(1) 1kg pouch or

NISSIN'S YAKISOBA (Cup) or
NISSIN CUP NOODLES
any variant and size
(1) pc. lid

2. Ilakip ito sa puting sobre, ihulog o ipadala sa:

Korek na Korek Ka D'yan Home Partner Promo
GMA Broadway Centrum TV Complex
Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave. cor.
Aurora Blvd., Quezon City

or

GMA Network Center
EDSA cor. Timog Ave.
Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 1574

o sa lahat ng JRS branches nationwide.

3. Ang Home Partner Promo ay open nationwide.
4. Ang deadline para maghulog ng entries ay tuwing Biyernes, November 2-23, 2001.
5. Ang mabubunot na home partner ay makakakuha ng cash prize na sinlaki ng napanalunan ng studio contestant sa Korek na Korek Ka D'yan Primetime Edition.

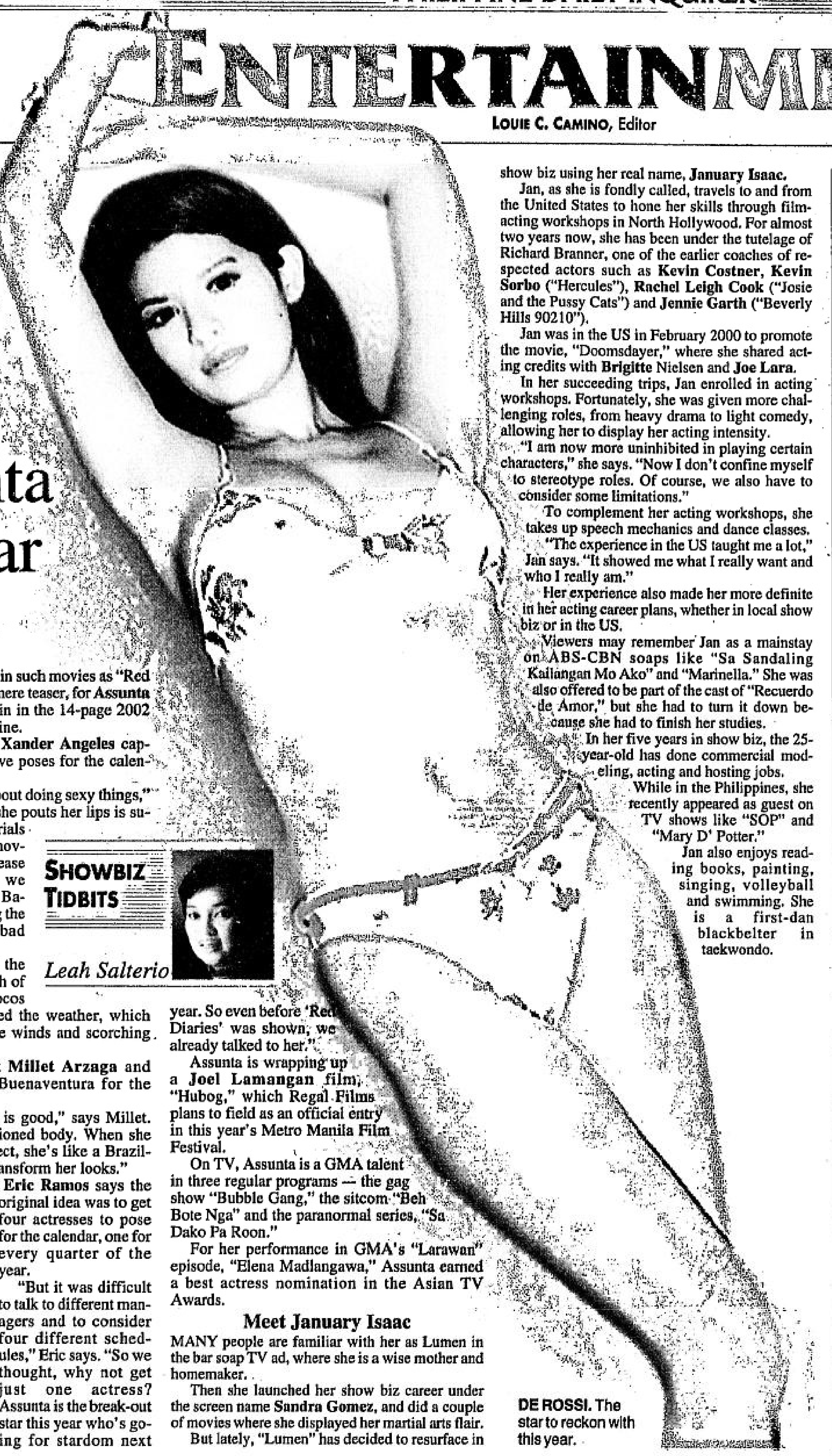
For inquiries, call tel. nos. 426-6423 to 28

1. All employees of Tape Inc., Broadway Studios, [illegible]DT, GMA-7, P&G, URC and their respective agencies, their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of cons[illegible]inity or affinity are disqualified to join the game and raffle promotion.
2. To increase their chances of winning, particip[illegible] consumers may send as many entries as they want, however they can only be picked once per draw.
3. Homepartner Winners will be notified through [illegible]stered mail and may claim their prize at the Cashier's Office Finance Department, 9th Floor GMA Network Center, [illegible]SA cor. Timog, Quezon City.
4. Homepartner Winners must claim their prize within sixty (60) days from notification. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited upon approval of the DTI.
5. Winners must present any two (2) proper identification documents with photos (e.g. office/school I.D. card, passport, drivers license or birth certificate).
6. A Contestant/Homepartner can win only once for the entire promo duration.
7. Tape Inc.'s decisions in concurrence with the DTI are deemed final.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1613, Series of 2001

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



Assunta all-year long

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

HER big-screen sexiness in such movies as "Red Diaries" and "Sisid" is a mere teaser, for **Assunta de Rossi** shows more skin in the 14-page 2002 calendar of FHM Magazine.

Young photographer **Xander Angeles** captured Assunta in seductive poses for the calendar.

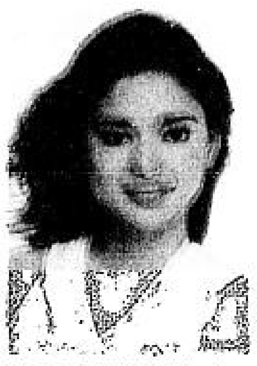
"She has no qualms about doing sexy things," Xander says. "The way she pouts her lips is super sexy. I did her pictorials in two of her previous movies so we were already at ease with each other when we worked on the calendar. Basically, we had fun during the shoot, except for the bad weather."

For the photo shoot, the team traveled to the north of Luzon in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, where they braved the weather, which raged between gale-force winds and scorching heat, for four days.

FHM tapped stylist **Millet Arzaga** and makeup artist Lowell Buenaventura for the project.

"Assunta's skin tone is good," says Millet. "She has a well-proportioned body. When she starts to emote and project, she's like a Brazilian model. It's easy to transform her looks."

FHM editor in chief **Eric Ramos** says the original idea was to get four actresses to pose for the calendar, one for every quarter of the year.



ISAAC. Uninhibited.

"But it was difficult to talk to different managers and to consider four different schedules," Eric says. "So we thought, why not get just one actress? Assunta is the break-out star this year who's going for stardom next year. So even before 'Red Diaries' was shown, we already talked to her."

Assunta is wrapping up a **Joel Lamangan** film, "Hubog," which Regal Films plans to field as an official entry in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

On TV, Assunta is a GMA talent in three regular programs — the gag show "Bubble Gang," the sitcom "Beh Bote Nga" and the paranormal series, "Sa Dako Pa Roon."

For her performance in GMA's "Larawan" episode, "Elena Madlangawa," Assunta earned a best actress nomination in the Asian TV Awards.

Meet January Isaac

MANY people are familiar with her as Lumen in the bar soap TV ad, where she is a wise mother and homemaker.

Then she launched her show biz career under the screen name **Sandra Gomez**, and did a couple of movies where she displayed her martial arts flair.

But lately, "Lumen" has decided to resurface in show biz using her real name, **January Isaac.**

Jan, as she is fondly called, travels to and from the United States to hone her skills through film-acting workshops in North Hollywood. For almost two years now, she has been under the tutelage of Richard Branner, one of the earlier coaches of respected actors such as **Kevin Costner**, **Kevin Sorbo** ("Hercules"), **Rachel Leigh Cook** ("Josie and the Pussy Cats") and **Jennie Garth** ("Beverly Hills 90210").

Jan was in the US in February 2000 to promote the movie, "Doomsdayer," where she shared acting credits with **Brigitte** Nielsen and **Joe Lara.**

In her succeeding trips, Jan enrolled in acting workshops. Fortunately, she was given more challenging roles, from heavy drama to light comedy, allowing her to display her acting intensity.

"I am now more uninhibited in playing certain characters," she says. "Now I don't confine myself to stereotype roles. Of course, we also have to consider some limitations."

To complement her acting workshops, she takes up speech mechanics and dance classes.

"The experience in the US taught me a lot," Jan says. "It showed me what I really want and who I really am."

Her experience also made her more definite in her acting career plans, whether in local show biz or in the US.

Viewers may remember Jan as a mainstay on ABS-CBN soaps like "Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako" and "Marinella." She was also offered to be part of the cast of "Recuerdo de Amor," but she had to turn it down because she had to finish her studies.

In her five years in show biz, the 25-year-old has done commercial modeling, acting and hosting jobs.

While in the Philippines, she recently appeared as guest on TV shows like "SOP" and "Mary D' Potter."

Jan also enjoys reading books, painting, singing, volleyball and swimming. She is a first-dan blackbelter in taekwondo.

DE ROSSI. The star to reckon with this year.

Before Mr. Right, there's Mr. Quite-Right

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I JUST read this article in British Glamour about "The One before The One." It says, "Before you find Mr. Right, you've got to experience Mr. Quite-Right. The second-to-last man has a lot to teach you about lasting love."

A few of my closest female buddies are in the same boat. We've all come from long-term relationships and are in that stage where we've let go of the bitterness coming from the failure, but we are not quite in that stage where we can say we're already in the this-is-it, lifetime relationship mode or are even sure we're ready for it.

Our long-term,, though not quite forever, relationships happened in our twenties, and now we're all in our thirties and have all come out a bit wiser. We know that the love we experienced — though it was strong but didn't make it to the finish line — was a lesson-filled prelude to a more mature and truly lasting partnership.

At this point in our lives, there are certain truths we've realized from having loved The One before.

- He needs his space, just as much as you need yours.

There's no need to feel that a successful relationship means that the two of you are practically Siamese twins. When you separate, you realize that there are many things that you can do on your own, and there are activities that are better enjoyed independently.

I remember how bad I'd feel each time my ex would spend the day playing golf, when he'd play poker at night instead of watching a movie with me. A friend related that almost nightly, for the six months until they finally separated, her ex-husband was out with his friends until dawn.

Now I can differentiate between needing some of his limited private time and space, as opposed to escaping from what had clearly become an unhappy relationship.

Now, when another, still-married friend complains to me about her husband's night out with the boys, I tell her to understand that men have a different way of bonding, and conversation over a few bottles of beer is how some can best unwind. In fact, if it happens just a couple of times a month, it's a healthy break that she should support.

- Affection and appreciation have to be constantly given and received.

A long-term relationship survives because you are each other's support system. It's knowing there's someone who'll willingly listen to your excitement or frustration at work, who'll give you strength when you're nervous, or someone who'll just be around to give you a hug when things don't go your way.

I learned from my last relationship how to be at ease in giving sincere compliments. It takes a few words or a little extra effort, but the effect is so uplifting. My ex never failed to let me know when I was looking my best or when I did something particularly good.

My other separated friends are also very thoughtful and compassionate. They know that nothing's lost in going the extra mile for people who are special in our life. They also know that "thank you" is the best encouragement to keep trying to be a good person.

- More than just loving each other, you each have to be a source of happiness and security.

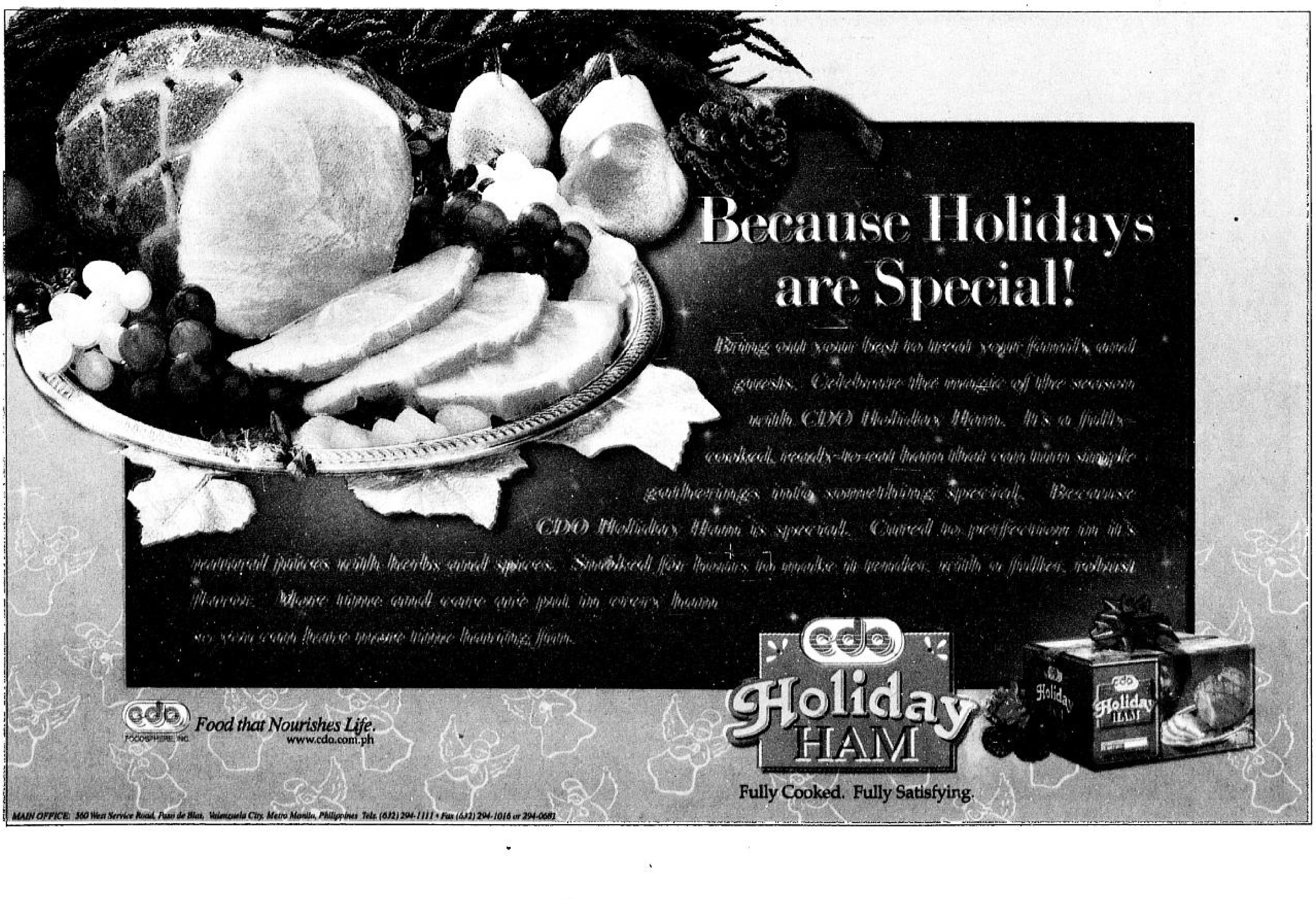
You know that song, "Sometimes Love Just Ain't Enough"? The romantics in us wold beg to disagree, but as important as romantic passion is in a relationship, dramatic outbursts and a never-ending roller coaster ride just get too emotionally tiring that for your sanity, it's best to finally get off.

How many times have I heard the line, "I love him, but there's just so much pain and unhappiness between us already"? Nobody wants to be bored, but nobody can survive constantly being on edge as well.

A commitment lasts because being together enhances the joy you feel from everyday life. You laugh louder, and you live a fuller life. The good gets better and the bad, well, you know it's temporary and together you can weather anything.

- He isn't perfect, but he's a perfect fit for me.

BEFORE/ A28



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Pagcor to issue ₱15B worth of bonds

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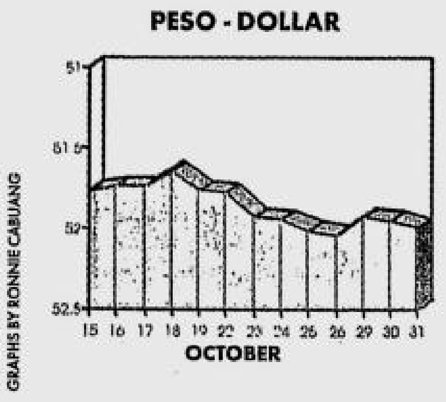

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Cuisia's HK gamble

Cocktales
B5

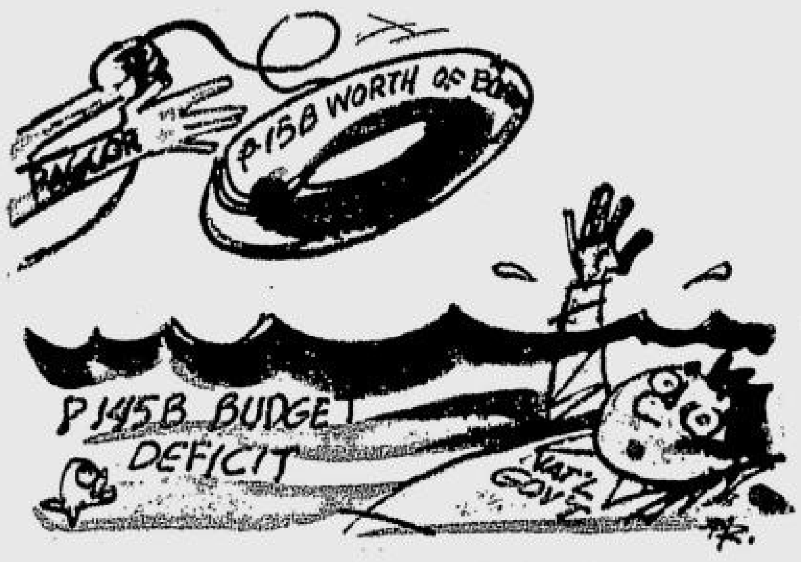
By CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE STATE-OWNED Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. will issue this month P15 billion worth of bonds maturing in three, four and five years, with the proceeds going to the national government to help plug its P145-billion budget deficit for 2001.

Well-placed INQUIRER sources said the government has appointed state-owned institutions Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines, and First Metro Investment Corp., a part of the Metrobank Group, to handle the bond float.

The three financial institutions have given the government a firm commitment to underwrite the Pagcor bond issue, which means they will give the gaming firm the entire P15 billion even if there are no takers for the debt notes.

A source said that Pagcor would either remit the proceeds directly to the government or it would use the money to buy a piece of property in the reclamation area being managed by the Philippine Estates Authority.



The PEA, in turn, would remit the proceeds of the sale to the national government.

Sources pointed to the Pagcor deal as the money that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had been hinting at in recent weeks. He had repeatedly told reporters that he was expecting proceeds from the sale of a property, but he declined to elaborate.

The proceeds of the transaction should give the government substantial room to maneuver with the deficit and would take the place of the P10 billion in revenue that the finance chief was expecting from the sale of assets, notably the 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co.

Another source pointed out that the government preferred that the gaming firm hand over the proceeds of the bond issue directly because the other option might take time and delay the remittance that would plug the deficit.

As of September, the government's budget deficit had ballooned to P122.152 billion, leaving it with only P22.85 billion to maneuver with for the last quarter of 2001.

The P15 billion would increase the government's flexibility to P37.85 billion and could sufficiently cover the budget gap for the remaining period of the year.

One of the sources said the three underwriters would issue P5 billion for each maturity of three, four and five years. It has not been determined yet if the Pagcor borrowing

PAGCOR/ B2

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IT company earmarks ₱300M for expansion of call center

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEADING information technology service firm SPI Technologies Inc. is investing up to P300 million early next year to expand its fast-growing call center unit e-Telecare.

SPI president Ernest Cu told reporters the company was set to expand the capacity of e-Telecare in anticipation of more contracts to be bagged from the United States, where a lot of companies are outsourcing call center services to reduce the cost of doing business.

Analysts expect the further economic downturn resulting from the terrorist attacks in the United States to benefit the IT labor sector in the Philippines, which has a vast pool of English-speaking and skilled IT workers.

But even if the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks did not happen, Cu said SPI's aggressive marketing of its services in the United States and Europe would bring in more revenue for e-Telecare.

"We'll probably spend between $4 million and $6 million for the second phase of e-Telecare," Cu said.

The expansion of the call center business will constitute the bulk of SPI's capital expenditures next year, he said.

SPI has so far invested $10 million in its new call center venture, which was funded by convertible notes issued to US-based financial giant AIG.

A call center is a central place where customer and other telephone calls are handled by an organization. Typically, a call center has the ability to handle a considerable volume of calls at the same time, to screen calls and forward them to someone qualified to handle them, and to log calls.

Call centers are used by mail-order catalog organizations, telemarketing companies, computer product help desks and any large organization that uses the telephone to sell or service products and services.

Like the first phase, Cu said the second phase of e-Telecare would consist of 300 seats. Each of e-Telecare's seat consists of a station with at least two people alternating in shifts to provide 24-hour call center service.

Cu estimated that more and more US companies were deciding to outsource call center services because they could generate 15-20 percent savings than if they were to tap manpower at home.

For its part, SPI's e-Telecare now has seven clients, including a foreign telephone company as well as those engaged in financial services, travel, computer equipment and retailing businesses. SPI does not accept telemarketing contracts, Cu said.

Even if a lot of local companies have been trying to put up call center businesses, Cu said e-Telecare has never been pressured to adopt a more aggressive pricing scheme because the quality of its services was enough to attract clients.

Cu said the additional investments for e-Telecare would be financed either through a stock rights offering or through new borrowings.

"But most probably it will be through a bank loan because debt is cheaper for us compared to equity. The potential of the business makes debt cheaper than dilution of shares," he said.

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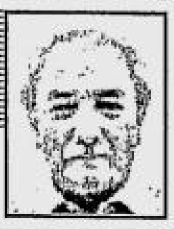
Insurance liberalization: An update–Part 2

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Honesto C. General

LIBERALIZATION has attracted some of the largest companies from the US, United Kingdom, Europe and Japan into the local life insurance business.

Under the rules of the Insurance Commission, they have set up either a full-fledged branch, a wholly owned subsidiary, or bought into an existing company. As a result, the total number of companies has just about doubled to 40.

The allure probably comes from the fact that only 10 percent of the populace carries some form of life insurance. And although the poverty line is high, the healthy increase in new business year after year proves that, for any hard-hitting, forward-looking company, the Philippines is still a fertile territory to develop.

The non-life side of the insurance industry has not been so attractive to foreigners. There have been no full-fledged branches or wholly owned subsidiaries. On the contrary, head office mergers of foreign companies resulted in the consolidation and reduction of local branches. There have been a few buy-ins. One of them recently broke up when the foreign partner folded up.

Probably, the main reason why the non-life insurance industry has not been attractive is that there are already some 100 companies in a market that is considered modest by international standards. Also, the non-life industry has a record of thin profits these past several years. Domestic companies dominate the industry, but the presence of foreign companies remains formidable.

Over the past three years, the premium volume of non-life business has contracted by about 3 percent. This is due to stiffer competition and the economic slowdown. But no insurance company has gone running to the government for help. No local company is on the verge of collapse.

To gain and consolidate their beachheads right away, the foreign companies, particularly the life companies, opened up by giving executives of leading local companies attractive salaries and perks. Top agents were offered fat commission rates. Piracy was so widespread that anyone in the business needed a roadmap to trace who went where. If you did not get an offer, you felt deprived.

Liberalization has also attracted international brokers. But the new players have taken a minority position in existing local brokers. But there was also some piracy among brokers. To round up liberalization, even foreign loss adjusters have set up shop.

There is now a larger and wider contingent of foreign expatriates assigned here. Before, the expatriates were mostly American and British. Now, there are Italians, Germans, Japanese, East Asian and Australians. Truly, the Philippine insurance industry has turned international in character.

The added foreign flavor has revitalized the insurance industry. New ideas from companies, brokers and adjusters have turned the industry around. New products, life and non-life, have blossomed all over the landscape.

In this fiercely competitive atmosphere, the consumer is the biggest winner. Life or non-life, he now has a far wider variety of insurance products to choose from at rock bottom prices. After all, this is what trade liberalization is all about.

Those who are scared of trade liberalization should perhaps look at the experience in the insurance industry. Trade liberalization cannot be all that bad. And, in the end, everything depends on the scrappy Filipino businessman.

BANTAY BILIHIN YOUTH CLUB MEET

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. (right) exchanges pleasantries with Rep. Harry Angping (center), chair of the House committee on trade and Industry, and Jesus Tanchanco, vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-National Capital Region, while attending the 7th Annual Bantay Bilihin Youth Club (BBYC) Conference. The conference, which was attended by more than 200 high school students, carried the theme "Consumer Empowerment through Education" and focused on intellectual property rights awareness.

RP working on bigger share of EU mart for RP auto parts

THE PHILIPPINES is eyeing a bigger share of the European Union (EU) market for the export of automotive parts and components, the Department of Trade and Industry announced.

With the slowing global economy, aggravated by the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas said the government was taking a firmer foothold on the EU market as an alternative for the export of its auto parts and components.

Roxas said this would keep the automotive industry afloat while at the same time still providing an avenue to grow in the global economic activity.

The automotive industry represents a significant portion of the international market, with extensive upstream and downstream linkages to many diverse industries and sectors.

Total Philippine exports of automotive parts and components to other countries reached $1.1 billion last year with Japan, the United States and Germany remaining as its top markets.

Among the top 10 markets for Philippine auto parts, exports to the EU settled at 6.09 percent of the market share, with Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the top buyers.

Previous years also proved that the motor vehicle industry's contribution in employment and investments have been increasing. In 1999 alone, the industry contributed investments of approximately P27 billion and employed at least 45,000 workers.

In order to win a bigger share of the lucrative auto market, Roxas said the government was further strengthening the industry by matching Philippine automotive parts and components manufacturing companies with overseas motor vehicle companies in need of auto parts and components.

Initially, the DTI's Bureau of Export Trade Promotion and the Foreign Trade Service Corps are coordinating with the CBI-Netherlands Integrated Promotion Program for Mobile Equipment, an EU-based consulting company involved in the promotion of imports from developing countries such as the Philippines.

The program aims to assist producers and exporters of parts and components for automobiles, trucks, trailers and tractors to enter the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) and after-market in Western Europe. Through a step-by-step approach, selected companies will be given intensive support in order to get a firm hold of the EU market.

During the initial stage of evaluation, 27 auto parts manufacturing companies were short-listed to join the program. Only 11 companies submitted their application forms to CBI and six companies were pre-selected and qualified for the second phase of the program, which involves product adaptation.

These six companies were Carparts Manufacturing Inc., manufacturer of exhaust system (muffler); Southtech Development Corp., exhaust system (muffler); Glassworks Industries Inc., automotive glass; Transworld Rubber, automotive rubber; Kings Rubber Industrial Manufacturing, automotive rubber; and J.F. Rubber Philippines Inc., automotive rubber.

Consultants from CBI are in the country to evaluate the overall technical qualifications of the six pre-selected firms. CBI's assessment criteria will include judging the suitability of the companies visited in terms of product properties competitiveness, quality control, organization of production and exports function, and management quality.

Technical assistance, and advice in marketing, management, production, quality control and product adaptation to EU requirements such as product pricing, packaging and non-tariff barriers will also be provided by the CBI consultants.

Pagcor to issue ₱15B . . .

(From page B1)

was part of the so-called securitization that Camacho had been proposing to the gaming firm.

The plan to securitize the huge earnings of the gaming firm was chosen by Malacañang over an earlier proposal to sell a 45-percent stake in Pagcor to private investors through an initial public offering.

This year, Pagcor is targeting P16.4 billion in net income, or 10 percent more compared with last year's.

Camacho, said one source, was banking on the plan to cap his six-month stint with the finance department with the distinction of being the first secretary in the last several years to have kept the budget deficit within target.

Keeping a lid on the budget deficit is also important, following concerns in the financial markets that the Philippine government was again in danger of exceeding its deficit target for the fourth straight year.

A government chronically exceeding its target deficit may have more difficulty in accessing financing from both foreign and domestic markets.

Local banks pick partner for cash center project

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines has chosen the consortium led by De La Rue and Group 4 Securitas to be the commercial bank group's joint-venture partner in the establishment of a cash center, BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said in an interview.

"The reason we picked them was because of the depth and breadth of their core competence," Coronel explained.

The cash center to be located beside the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' printing plant in Quezon City, Coronel said, could help halve the three to four percentage points of a bank's intermediation costs, thus leading to lower interest rates charged to borrowers.

The BAP executive said that the consortium should come up with a study on the feasibility of the cash center within six months. It would take as long as two years to complete construction once the final design has been determined.

Total cost of the project would likely be substantially below P500 million, he added.

The BAP and the BSP already have an agreement in principle for the setting up of the cash center, which would make banks more efficient in handling cash.

The De La Rue-Group 4 consortium includes National Safe Construct, a security company, and Sullivan Consulting.

De La Rue is the world's leading provider of cash-to-secure transactions and the largest commercial security printer and paper maker. The company is also a leading provider of cash-handling equipment and solutions to banks and retailers as well as a range of identity systems to governments worldwide. It has taken over Currency Systems, a technology provider dedicated to high-performance currency processing systems and advanced solutions in high-speed and medium-speed (desktop) currency processing applications. CSI services central and commercial banks, currency deposit receivers, armored car companies, bank note printers, casinos and other establishments that require automated handling of large amounts of currency or other negotiable documents.

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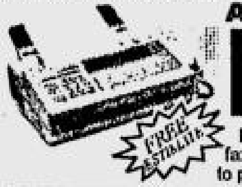

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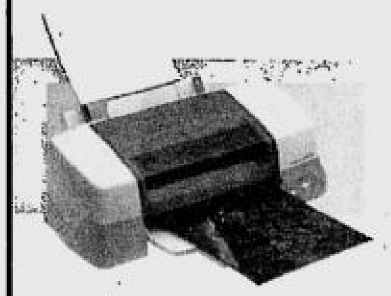

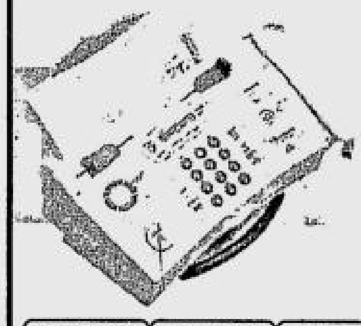

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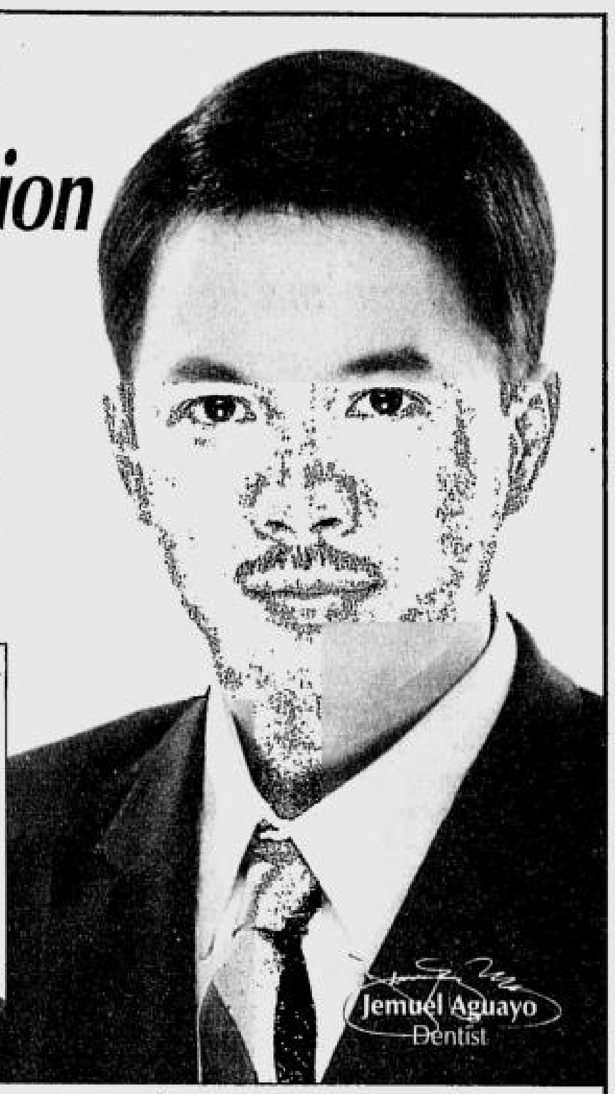

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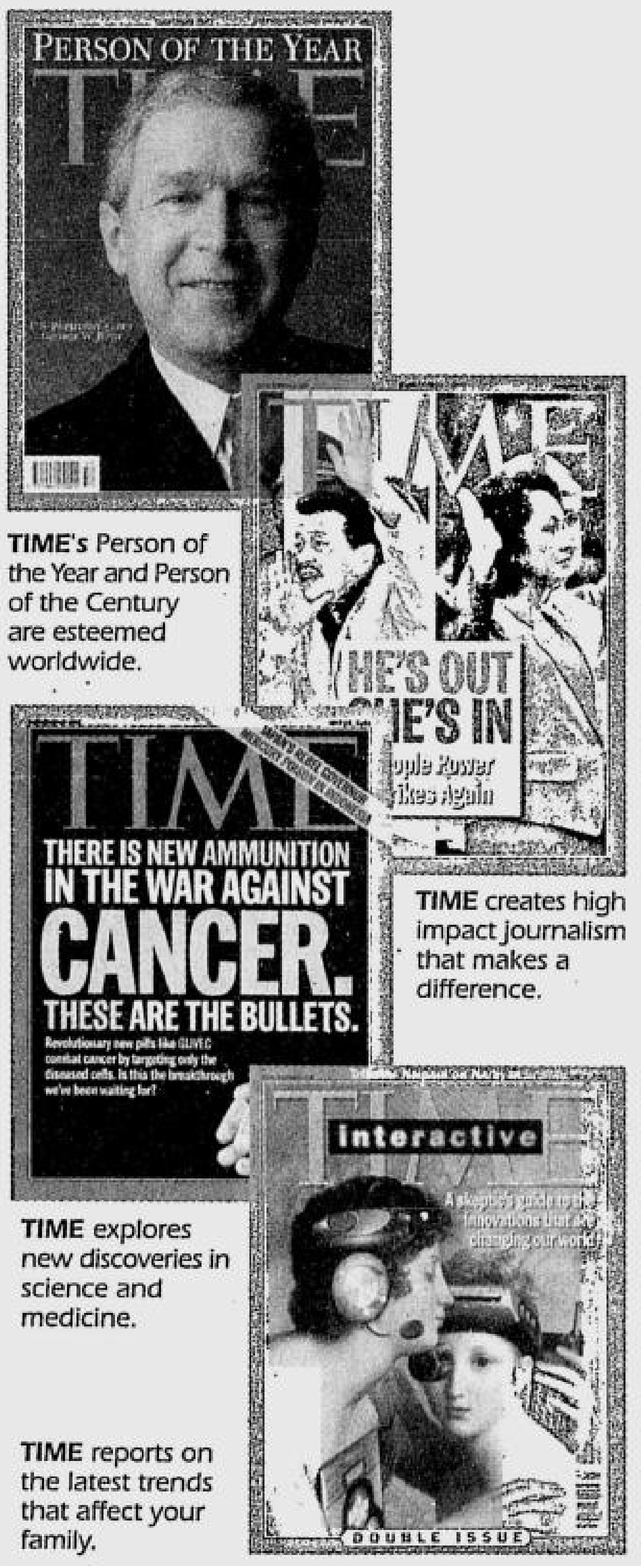

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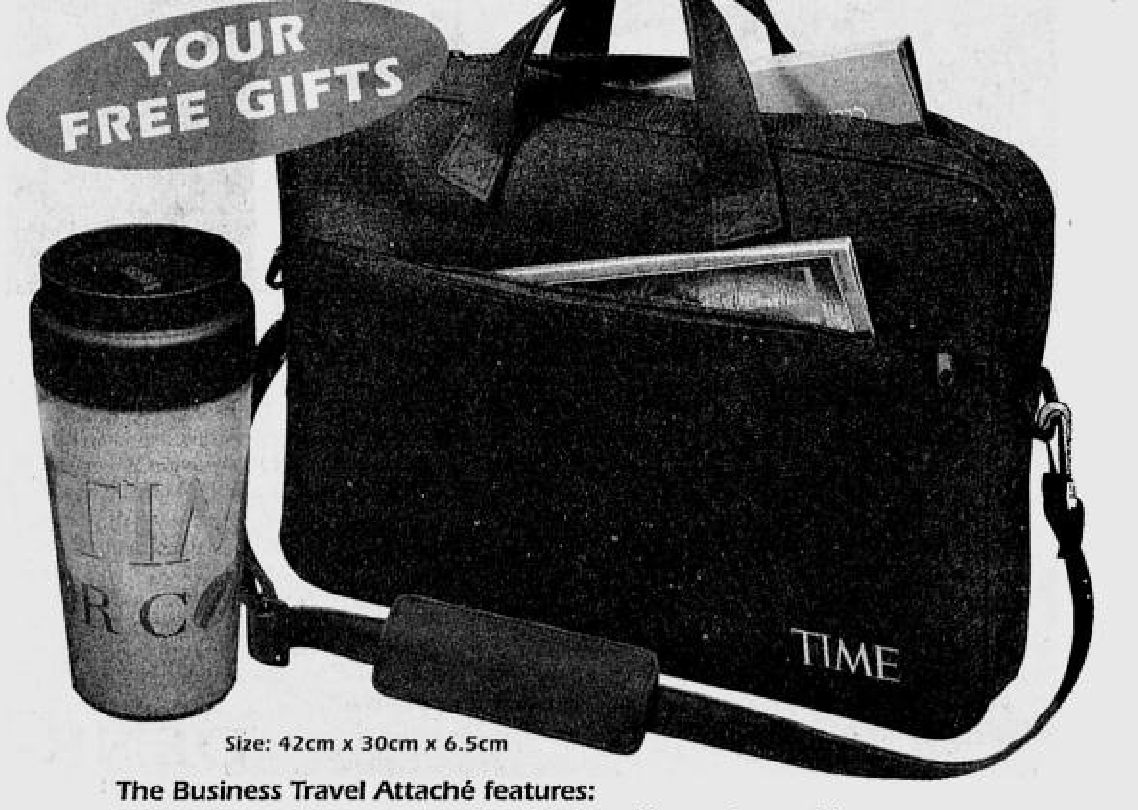

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OUR TIME

November is Clean Air Month

DENR calls for multi-sectoral participation in Clean Air Month Celebration

"Let's All Act to Clean the Air"

> *"This November, we are reminded of our responsibility to go out and be part of a global effort to ensure clean, healthy and breathable air."* — Sec. Heherson T. Alvarez

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez calls on government agencies, local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs), peoples' organizations (POs) and the private sector to support efforts of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration to clean the air. This as the country celebrates Clean Air Month this November with the theme, "Let's All Act to Clean the Air."

On October 22, 1997, President Fidel V. Ramos declared the month of November of every year as Clean Air Month under Proclamation No. 1109. This aims to increase the public's awareness on the growing urgency for healthy air.

Alvarez said no amount of policy-making would solve the problem of pollution but the determination of various groups advocating for clean air will curb pollution.

"We all have to take responsibility for our actions, initiate engine tune-ups for our vehicles and support the implementation of the Clean Air Act," Alvarez stressed.

A study conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) revealed that air pollution levels in Metro Manila are rapidly increasing. It also said that the primary sources of air pollution are vehicles that emit pollutants found to cause cancer and severe respiratory illnesses.

DENR realized the need to organize efforts of all concerned agencies that will support the objectives of RA 8749 otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999. Through the Department's initiative and financial support from various financial institutions led by ADB, the Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program (MMAQISDP) was established.

MMAQISDP was implemented in 1999 with the main objective of promoting policy reforms to improve the quality of air in the Metro Manila airshed. The program has since supported different government agencies,NGOs, POs, and the private sector in their campaign for clean air.

Just recently, DENR through its Natural Resources and Development Corporation (NRDC) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (FEDJODAP) to ensure that emissions of jeepneys and other diesel-fueled vehicles comply with the Clean Air Act.

DENR also strengthened its efforts in curbing pollution from industries through a Computerized Permitting and Administration System (CPAS). MMAQISDP revived this system to intensify monitoring and ease the issuances of permits and notices to effectively track down violators from the industry sector.

The Department of Transportationand Communications (DOTC) spearheads the establishment of a Motor Vehicle Inspection System, which is one of the major components of the MMAQISDP. This system will mandate regular inspection of the engines of vehicles to ensure compliance to environmental standards.

DOTC has also launched an Anti-Smoke Belching Program to intensify the government's implementation of the Clean Air Act on vehicular emissions.

Earlier this year, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) carried an all out anti-smoke belching campaign along EDSA. The campaign is in cooperation with Bantay Kalikasan and the Partnership for Clean Air (PCA) including the anti-smoke belching units of local government offices. Also, the Department of Energy (DOE) has been pushing for the improvement in the quality of fuel. Specifications in fuel such as the reduction of the sulfur content in Diesel to 0.50% are now being amended and revised to suit the provisions of the Clean Air Act. DOE is also examining the benefits of using alternative fuels such as natural gas and help determine its economic feasibility and environmental impacts.

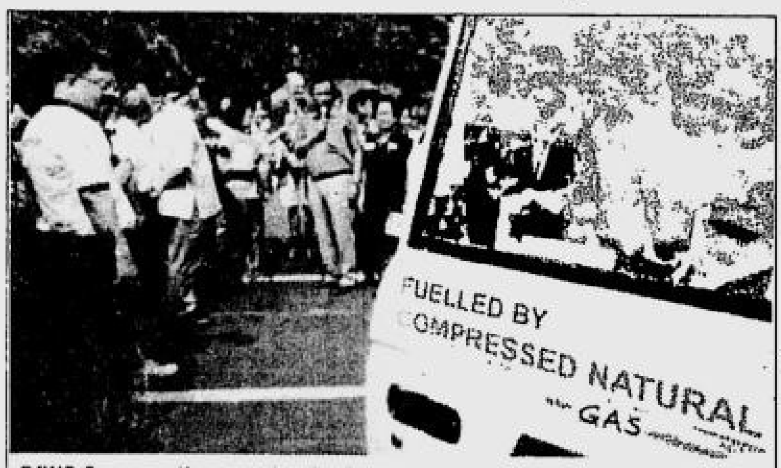
Within the year, government will purchase necessary equipment such as gas analyzers and opacimeters to aid in the monitoring and implementation of the different components of the MMAQISDP.

"DENR is confident that the MMAQISDP together with its multi-sectoral membership will effectively carry out the requirements of the Clean Air Act. However, for this to be sustained, public participation plays a key role. Again we are reminded of our responsibilities this November to go out and be part of a global effort to ensure clean, healthy and breathable air," Alvarez said.

We are partners for CLEAN AIR
save the air
Partnership for Clean Air

DENR Secretary Alvarez calls for the participation of other sectors in the campaign for clean air. The organization of the Partnership for Clean Air (PCA) manifests strong citizen participation in the clean air program of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration. Shown in photo is Sec. Alvarez with other government officials during the launching of the Partnership at the ADB grounds in Pasig City.

Alvarez bats for natural gas as alternative fuel for transport use


FUELLED BY COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS

DENR Secretary Alvarez pushes for the use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel for vehicles. CNG reduces pollutants in emissions of up to 20 percent.

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Alvarez pushes for the use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel during the National Conference on Alternative Sources of Energy held at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) held recently.

Alvarez stressed the need to maximize the potential of clean fuels in improving the quality of air in Metro Manila. He cited the Malampaya Gas project of Shell Philippines Exploration BV recently inauguarated by President Macapagal-Arroyo, which would greatly contribute to national economic stability through cheaper fuel costs.

"The shift from diesel to the much cleaner CNG will finally make clean air a reality in Metro Manila which is listed as one of the most polluted cities in the world by the World Health Organization (WHO). This project will help intensify the government's implementation of the Clean Air Act and can start a nationwide campaign for alternative sources of energy," Alvarez said.

Global petroleum is exhaustible and can decline after its peak in approximately 30. years. Combustion of petroleum-based fossil fuels– bunker fuel, gasoline, and diesel – result to the emissions of pollutive gases, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides and particulate matter that pose risks on health and the environment.

Robinson's Children's Library joins DENR in celebration of Clean Air Month

the CHILDReN's LiBRaRY

The GOKONGWEI Brothers Foundation – The Children's Library (TCL) takes on clean air as the program theme in November in support of the Clean Air Month celebration.

TCL will officially launch the program with the theme, "Hangin, Ipamana Ninyo sa Amin" in November 10 with a series of activities relating to issues on air quality for the whole month of November. The activity is made possible in partnership with the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports (DECS) and Earthwatch.

Noreena Ricafort, TCL Operations Manager acknowledges the need to promote awareness of a healthy environment among children.

"TCL recognizes the need for children to learn more about air pollution and its effects in the body. We have prepared activities specifically for this purpose in celebration of the Clean Air Month this November," Ricafort said.

Activities include trivia contests, competitions in literature, art, music and science coordinated with various public and private schools. TLC also offers a Library Theatre for storytelling, videos, CD-ROM Demos, and other activities, a Children's Gallery, a Puppet Stage, and an on-line public access catalogue for easy access on books and other reading materials.

Government-NGOs intensify campaign vs smoke-belchers

An MMDA personnel issues a violation ticket after a bus plying EDSA failed an emissions test.

A smoke-belching vehicle is subjected to an emissions test through portable smoke-testing equipment.

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) in cooperation with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Philippine National Police-Traffic Management Group (PNP-TMG), Bantay Kalikasan and Partnership for Clean Air (PCA) joined forces to strengthen the implementation of an anti-smoke belching campaign in support of the Clean Air Act.

DOTC Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said that DOTC has officially started its campaign on smoke belchers along EDSA where enforcers from the DOTC and Land Transportation Office (LTO) would be ready to apprehend smoke belchers.

"Vehicles that emit black smoke will be flagged down. These will undergo an emissions test through a portable equipment that our enforcers have," Alvarez said.

Earlier this year, MMDA has also launched its own anti-smoke belching units participated by Bantay Kalikasan, LGUs and other concerned agencies. Total apprehensions since April to October is 10,061 vehicles with 9,602 of vehicles failing the emissions tests.

Under the Clean Air Act, a fine of P1,000 will be slapped against violators on the first offense while a fine of P3,000 and confiscation of their license plates will be imposed for the second offense. For the third offense, violators will be fined P5,000 with their registrations and driver's licenses suspended for a year. They will also be required to attend seminars on proper vehicle maintenance as part of their penalty.

"No one will be spared from the drive. Both private and public utility vehicles, if they are found to be belching black smoke, will be apprehended," Alvarez added.

DENR-FEDJODAP form alliance for clean air

THE DENR through its corporate arm, Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC), recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (FEDJODAP) to help the transport sector comply with the provisions of the Clean Air Act of 1999.

The MOA signaled the start of the provision in RA 8749 mandating all vehicles to secure Certificate of Compliance (COC) to emission standards as a requirement for registration of vehicles.

"We are initiating this pilot project for the implementation of a comprehensive inspection and maintenance (I/M) system in compliance with the Clean Air Act, making sure that diesel-fueled public utility vehicles comply with the law. Inspection and maintenance of vehicles is a critical component of the Clean Air Act," stressed Alvarez.

Under the MOA, the DENR through NRDC, will provide financial assistance to FEDJODAP members, in cooperation with the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). Filipinas Engine Remanufacturing and ReconditioningCorporation (FERRC) will supply re-manufactured engines to FEDJODAP-member jeepney drivers and will train operators on the proper handling and maintenance of engines.

Petron Corporation, on the other hand, would conduct emissions testing, provide technical assistance, including repairs, installation of emission control devices and clean diesel fuel.###

"Clean Up the World"

DENR Secretary Alvarez (center) signs Memorandum of Agreement with the DENR-Natural Resources Development Corporation (DENR-NRDC), the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (FEDJODAP), Filipinas Engine Remanufacturing and Reconditioning Corporation (FERRC), Petron Corporation and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). The MOA aims to curb pollution from the transport sector and help them comply with the provisions of the Clean Air Act.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Lobbying by US textile millers worries RP exporters

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GARMENTS and Textile Board is worried that intense lobbying by American textile millers to seek increased protection from cheap garments and textile imports from Asia would make it difficult for the Philippine to gain more access to the United States, the world's biggest market for fabrics and apparel.

In a memorandum to Trade Secretary and GTEB chair Manuel Roxas II, GTEB executive director Felicitas R. Agoncillo-Reyes said the US domestic industry would not shed its protectionism with the removal of quotas in 2005 based on the "alternative forms of protection" being requested by its lobbyist, the American Textile Manufacturers Institute (Atmi).

Reyes said the Atmi submitted a manifesto of desired government action to the Bush administration and US Congress to address the crisis in the US textile industry, which it described as the worst downturn in 50 years caused by the lower priced imports and transshipped textiles from Asia.

The Atmi claimed that the surge in textile and garments (up 80 percent in the last four years) has been largely due to the devaluation in Asian currencies (down an average of 40 percent), smuggling through the US-Mexican border, and China transshipments through Asia.

Over the last 12 months, Atmi said more than 100 textile plants in the United States have been closed and 60,000 textile workers (or 10 percent of the industry workforce) lost their jobs.

In its paper, Atmi urged the US government to initiate a crackdown on smuggling and transshipments, use emergency surge controls, open closed exports in Asia, reject further cuts in textile and apparel tariffs in the next round of the World Trade Organization, and provide loans and tax breaks to the industry.

Atmi said: "The crisis facing the industry has reached a point that the government must move quickly to readjust the competitive situation or risk the loss of one of the largest manufacturing sectors in the US."

Atmi said the Philippines was among the countries that have benefited the most in terms of increased exports to the United States in the last six years but these countries have made some of the loudest and most persistent complaints against the United States while maintaining their domestic markets closed to US exports. The Philippines is the 7th biggest exporter of garments and textile to the United States behind Pakistan, Thailand, India, South Korea, Taiwan and Indonesia.

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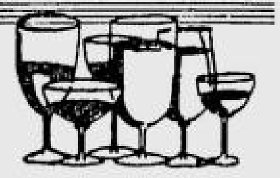

By Victor C. Agustin

PRE-NEED companies, like their strapped real estate counterparts, have zeroed in on the 140,000 Filipina domestics in Hong Kong to boost flagging sales in their homeland.

There are about half a dozen Manila-based pre-need firms that are now actively marketing in the territory, with Philam Plans by far the most successful.

Proof? The lines of maids waiting to take the two elevators to Philam Plans' 15th floor office in a Hong Kong Central building every Sunday easily remind Pinoy visitors of *pila sa tubig* back in the waterless days of Manila.

There is one small problem among the Philippine pre-needs in Hong Kong, though. None is registered to do business in the territory, as Hong Kong does not have a pre-need industry.

What the Philippine pre-needs do to skirt the tough Hong Kong regulations is that they market their policies through Hong Kong trading companies or brokers. These marketing middlemen, all Filipinos, send back the pre-need applications to Manila for approval, making the contracts Philippine transactions and, presumably, outside the scope of Hong Kong regulations.

To complete the legitimatization, regular premium payments made by the maids are coursed to the Manila offices through Philippine banks disguised as "remittances".

But, in recent months, Philam Plans has pushed the envelope even further. Philam, whose CEO is none other than former central bank governor Jose Cuisia Jr., has now resorted to multilevel marketing and Tagalog radio plugs to move its products.

The scheme has proven to be wildly successful, as thousands of maids are seen besieging the Philam office during their Sunday day-off, enticed by the promise of a P1-million pot.

Through a Pinoy-run marketing company, Philam Plans offers a *pares-pares* (literally, pair by pair) five-year pre-need and insurance plan, with only one year of payment for the planholder provided he/she can recruit two others to sign up. And provided, further, that the two recruits will not miss a payment in the course of their respective five-year plans.

The hook, and the match that ignited the wildfire, is that the lucky maid can retire after five years with a P1-million cash payoff.

But like pre-need plans and insurance policies, the devil lies in the details. Majority of the maids are unaware that they have to recruit 2,048 pairs or 4,096 other maids before they can hit the million jackpot.

Majority are also unaware that the marketing staffers are not Hong Kong-licensed insurance brokers.

Within Philam itself, the *pares-pares* plan has caused inter-company grumbling, since Philam's mother company in Hong Kong, AIA, holds the insurance license and has been marketing Philam Life's insurance policies ahead of its maverick cousin.

According to the grapevine, the Manila office has chosen to look the other way at the legal shortcuts of its pre-need arm, considering that it now accounts for about 15 percent of the earnings of the entire Philam Group.

Despite the series of raids conducted by the Hong Kong Commercial Crime Bureau against Chinese multilevel companies and their flipsides, the so-called "cash planting" companies, Philam Plans has escaped scrutiny mainly because it caters to the Filipina domestics and does business in Tagalog.

More important, there are no complainants, as the *pares-pares* pyramid has yet to run its entire course.

But you could just imagine the kind of newspaper headlines once the scheme blows up in the face of a former central bank governor.

Gunfire at Calatagan Corral

THE BACKHOE operators working on the Calatagan beachfront property of Liberty Telecom CEO Raymond Moreno were shot at several times the other Saturday.

Except for scaring the daylights out of the workers, the dusk shooting luckily hit no one except the earth-moving machines.

Not content with the Saturday scare, the shootings were repeated Monday morning, ripping more holes into the solid steel frames of the machines.

By the looks of the punctures, the firearm(s) used by the still unknown shooter(s) were definitely not for the birds.

Initial investigation by the local police has ruled out the New People's Army, whose armed teams have lately been seen in the area, as suspects.

Calatagan, for those not familiar with the Batangas pecking-order, is the weekend home to the country's oldest (and some new rich) landholding families.

Heard through the grapevine

THE stockholders' meeting has yet to be held on Wednesday, but the management of the Baguio Country Club has already obtained a ruling from a mid-level SEC bureaucrat that questions the validity of the hundreds of proxies obtained by the slate of stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

PLDT, German creditor eye new funding scheme

By Doris C. Dumlao

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is working out a new fund-raising scheme with German lender Kreditanstalt Fur Wierderaufbau (KfW).

Well-placed INQUIRER sources said that PLDT, which was forced to put off a crucial $250-million bond issue because of the jitters triggered by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, was now mapping out alternative measures to lengthen its debt maturity profile.

Among these measures was to restructure debts with some creditors or raise funds on a staggered basis through additional credit lines from individual lenders.

The sources said PLDT got a favorable response from KfW, which was willing to provide an additional credit line. They said whatever amount of fresh funds PLDT could get from KfW could help ease the company's requirements.

KfW is Germany's promotional bank for the domestic economy and the official development bank for developing countries like the Philippines. It was established in 1948 as a public corporation and is now 80 percent owned by the Federal Republic and 20 percent by the federal states.

The German lender extends long-term loans for exports of German enterprises and for projects in Germany and abroad in which Germany has considerable interest. It also administers different official export financing support schemes on behalf of the German government.

For its part, PLDT has $2.9 billion in outstanding obligations to date. Including the debts of its subsidiaries, the group's total borrowings stood at about $3.5 billion.

The telephone company is currently rethinking its acquisition of a controlling stake in broadcasting firm GMA Network Inc.

Instead of buying a 66.67-percent stake in the country's second biggest television network, PLDT is now considering to trim the extent of its buyout to 20 percent with the right to increase this to assume majority control at a later date.

According to the terms of the original memorandum of understanding, PLDT accepted an enterprise value of P14.5 billion for 100 percent of GMA-7. Excluding P2 billion of debts, PLDT was supposed to spend about P8 billion to acquire the 66.67-percent stake in GMA.

Given the telephone company's other problems, principally its $329 million in maturing debts in 2003-2004, ATR Kim Eng Securities analyst Martin Enrile said the company's cash flow would not likely be able to fund the acquisition under the original terms.

"The proposed amendment to the terms of the acquisition would probably give GMA's shareholders cause to rethink their position about the whole deal. It would not come as a surprise if the whole deal were to be shelved for the meantime," Enrile said.

"Unfortunately, given PLDT's strained liquidity at the moment, the company has no recourse but to approach capital spending with much caution. We laud PLDT's prudent approach to this deal as we recognize that GMA's contribution to PLDT will largely be strategic rather than financial. We retain our recommendation of a long-term buy on PLDT pending the outcome of this deal," Enrile said.

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Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	100,000	135,000
Cebu Country Club	-	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	190,000	200,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	300,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	Please Call	325,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	12,500,000
Manila Polo	2,700,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	720,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	750,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	160,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	40,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	500,000
Philippine Columbian	-	80,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	130,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	240,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	-	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	150,000
Sta. Elena "A"	-	1,700,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,800,000	Please Call
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	400,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	200,000
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	390,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	770,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	170,000	190,000
Valley Golf	220,000	240,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,900,000

PLAYING RIGHTS
(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	26,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	55,000	Riviera "A"	10,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	40,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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Canyon Woods	300,000	-
Capitol Hills	125,000	-
Celebrity Sports	185,000	-
The Country Club	4,500,000	-
Eagleridge-B	400,000	-
Eastridge	200,000	-
Filipinas Golf	350,000	-
Fontana C	130,000	-
Fontana D	80,000	-
Forest Hills A	253,000	230,000
Forest Hills B	-	240,000
Manila Golf	12,000,000	-
Manila Polo	2,700,000	2,500,000
Manila Southwoods A	700,000	Pls. Call
Manila Southwoods B	Pls.Call	-
Mimosa A	200,000	-
Orchard	250,00	250,000
Riviera	Pls. Call	-
Sherwood	200,000	-
Sta. Elena	1,800,000	-
Subic Golf	310,000	-
Tagaytay CC	390,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	
Tagaytay Midlands	730,000	
Tivoli Royale	230,000	-
Valle Verde A	180,000	-
Valle Verde C	300,000	-
Wack-wack	6,800,000	-

Playing Rights available lessor

Alabang	60,000	Tagaytay CC	40,000
Eagleridge	50,000	Tagaytay Midlands	50,000
~~Orchard~~	Best Buy!	Tagaytay Highlands	50,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Wack-wack	90,000

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2.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	-	Please call
3.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000.00	650,000.00
4.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Please call	-
5.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	750,000.00	600,000.00
6.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "A"	300,000.00	250,000.00
7.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "C"	-	Please call
8.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	135,000.00	-
9.	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000.00	Please call
10.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	380,000.00	350,000.00
11.	CLUB FILIPINO	210,000.00	-
12.	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	500,000.00	-
13.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	300,000.00	-
14.	MANILA POLO CLUB	Please call	3,000,000.00 all in
15.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	-	11,000,000.00
16.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Corporate)	Please call	Please call
17.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	700,000.00	650,000.00
18.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	Please call
19.	METRO CLUB "A"	-	120,000.00
20.	MIMOSA C-2	350,000.00	-
21.	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30,000.00
22.	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	450,000.00	-
23.	MT. MALARAYAT "C"	650,000.00	-
24.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000.00	-
25.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	400,000.00	-
26.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	500,000.00	-
27.	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	140,000.00	-
28.	PUNTA FUEGO (Individual)	845,000.00	-
29.	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	-	200,000.00
30.	ROCKWELL	600,000.00	450,000.00
31.	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	350,000.00	250,000.00
32.	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	1,640,000.00	-
33.	SUBIC YACHT CLUB	750,000.00 all in	-
34.	SPLENDIDO	600,000.00	-
35.	SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	150,000.00	-
36.	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	-
37.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INTERNATIONAL GOLF CLUB	600,000.00	-
38.	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	740,000.00	-
39.	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	175,000.00	Please call
40.	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	240,000.00	Please call
41.	VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB INC (CEBU)	Please call	-
42.	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	6,800,000.00
43.	THE COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	Please call
44.	OTHERS	Please call	-

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COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	30,000.00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	20,000.00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000.00
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	65,000.00
TAGAYTAY INTERNATIONAL GOLF CLUB	60,000.00
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	50,000.00
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	15,000.00
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	80,000.00
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB	20,000.00
OTHERS	Please call

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, October 31, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	40.5	40.5	1,187,200
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18	18	18	18	5,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	165	167	164	165	185,260
Philippine National Bank	47	48	47	48	408,200
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	18	18	18	18	1,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	40,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	235	242	235	242	170
Manulife Financial Corp.	1245	1260	1245	1260	430
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1055	1065	1045	1065	12,610
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25	25	25	3,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	630,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	540	540	535	540	8,050
Ipeople Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	45,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	380	387.5	380	380	106,350
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	7,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21	22	21	22	28,200
Manila Electric Co. B	32	33	32	33	595,000
Petron Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.02	1.02	5,067,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.32	1,207,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	335,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	11	11	67,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24	23.25	23.75	45,200
RFM Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	153,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	40	39	39.5	169,300
San Miguel Corp. B	44.5	45	44.5	45	297,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	50,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.4	4,240,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	140,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.59	0.6	3,820,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	80,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22.25	22.25	22	22	842,600
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.59	2,380,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	380,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	2,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.25	0.21	0.25	90,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	20	20	20	20	100
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	350,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	130,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	2,200,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	7,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	130,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	26	25.5	26	286,400
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	400
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	525	525	520	520	480
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	20,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.6	8.6	8	8.3	28,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.35	4.5	4.35	4.4	10,723,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.195	2,430,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.1	6,318,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	400,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	1,134,000
Mining					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,843,070	112,229,650.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	52,083,080	152,473,910.00
PRO	21,105,000	61,690,330.00
Mining	2,000,000	99,000.00
OIL	3,060,000	49,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	80,091,150	326,541,890.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	387.56	UP 1.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,409.45	DOWN 6.84
PRO	439.27	UP 2.36
Mining	998.12	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.28	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	643.01	UP 1.61
Composite	993.35	DOWN 1.79

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 72; NO. OF TRADES: 1,380

CURRENCIES

Oct. 31, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.105217	1.000000	51.9350
Japan	Yen	0.009062	0.008199	0.4258
United Kingdom	Pound	1.604001	1.451300	75.3733
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141877	0.128370	6.6669
Switzerland	Franc	0.680385	0.615612	31.9718
Canada	Dollar	0.700391	0.633714	32.9119
Singapore	Dollar	0.606063	0.548366	28.4794
Australia	Dollar	0.560454	0.507099	26.3362
Bahrain	Dinar	2.931765	2.652661	137.7659
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295513	0.267380	13.8864
Brunei	Dollar	0.602955	0.545554	28.3333
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.024769	0.022411	1.1639
UAE	Dirham	0.300985	0.272331	14.1435
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000776	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.904800	46.9908
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.462617	24.0260
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137936	7.1637
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410580	21.3235
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065754	3.4149
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022429	1.1649
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000467	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.152176	7.9033
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004513	0.2344
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005438	0.2824
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.022429	1.1649
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.148859	59.6660

Gov't seen exceeding budget deficit target

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE FINANCIAL markets would be in for another disappointment as the government expects to exceed again for the third straight month the deficit target for October by as much as P3 billion, based on initial estimates made by the Department of Finance.

Based on the estimates of the DOF, the best-case deficit scenario for October was already P539 million more at P13.178 billion compared to the programmed deficit of P12.639 billion for the month.

The worst-case scenario for October was placed by the DOF at P15.719 billion, which could bloat the deficit in the first 10 months of the year to P137.871 billion, leaving the government with only P7.129 billion to maneuver with in the remaining two months of the year.

In August, the government had exceeded its budget deficit target by P12.107 billion and by another P1.956 billion in September.

The Macapagal administration must raise P558.2 billion this year and, at the same time, keep its spending within or below P703.218 billion.

The higher deficit in October against the target was caused again by faltering collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Even Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin had hinted that the BIR was having problems with its collection in October.

However, Boncodin assured that the P145-billion budget deficit target for the whole of 2001 would be met. National Treasurer Sergio Edeza, who heads the agency that has consistently surpassed its revenue target, said the deficit target remained achievable.

Edeza also pointed out the fixed-income market should not bid up the government's borrowing rates in today's auctions of treasury bills. The government rejected all bids in last week's auction.

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Mr. Nigel Mayne
Worldsites President

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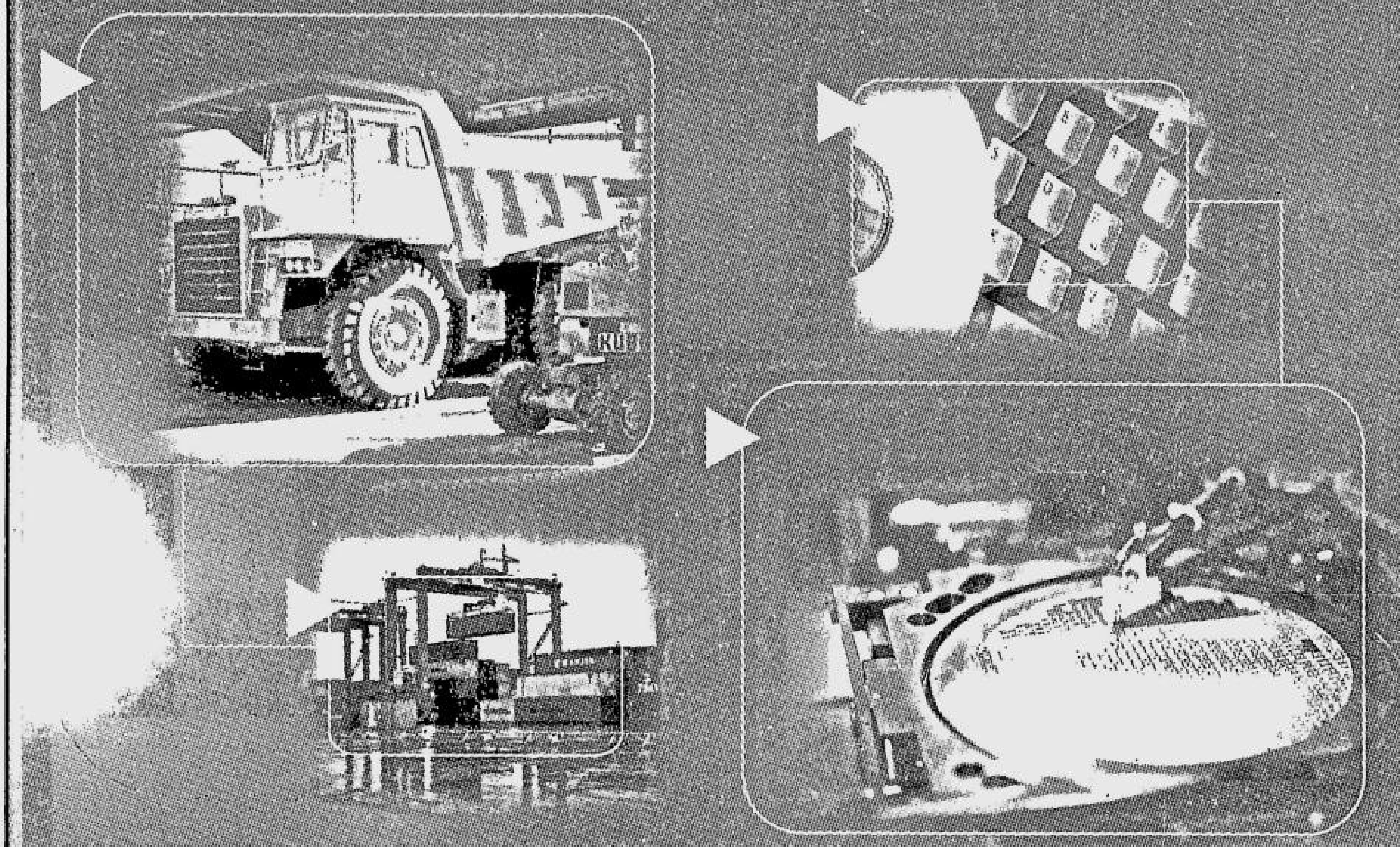

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ROGER MARGALLO

SWISSAIR on Oct. 29 resumed its daily flights from Manila to Zurich. It flies direct from Manila to Zurich on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with the rest of the week on Cathay Pacific via Hong Kong. Swissair flights were suspended after the terrorist attacks on the US last Sept. 11. Swissair manager Paul Schenk (right) joins Swissair pilot Knuss Christoph (left) in the first-class cabin of a Swissair plane.

BMW unit junks plan to import 'soft' CKDs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BMW Philippines Corp. has decided to drop its application filed with the Board of Investments to bring in assembly packs of its series 5 sedans in soft completely knocked down (CKD) version at preferred duties.

BMW Philippine president Mark Gilbert said the company would not pursue its application for license to import soft CKD after the BOI thumbed down its original application and that the company would explore other avenues to bring in the BMW series 5 here.

Businessman Jose Ch. Alvarez, 30-percent owner of BMW Philippines, said the company was likely to bring in the series 5 in completely built up version and just wait for duties to come down in the next couple of years. BMW Philippines currently assembles the BMW series 3 in the Bicutan plant owned by Alvarez which gives the German carmaker more room to price its mid-range sedans more aggressively.

Gilbert said the soft CKD imports would have meant more added value to the Philippine economy because the units would utilize more local labor for assembly than a semi-knocked down (SKD) version which was earlier allowed by the BOI to come in at the same duty as CKD. SKD importation has been discontinued by the BOI since 1998 except to special assemblers endorsed by Malacañang.

An SKD is a fully assembled vehicle sans the tires and batteries while a soft CKD units would require body painting and welding locally. Had the BOI allowed BMW to bring in its series 5 at CKD rates, the German carmaker would only pay 3 percent for duties compared to the 30 percent slapped on completely built up units.

BMW claimed that the soft CKD imports would generate jobs and revenues from the anticipated rise in painting and welding jobs (a paint job costs P200,000 for each unit while welding jobs fetch P30,000 for each unit) which would more than offset the projected losses in government revenues.

BMW, the only luxury carmaker that runs its own subsidiary in the Philippines, has already cornered more than half of the premium luxury car market as sales nearly doubled in the first nine months this year despite poor market conditions. Gilbert said the company performed well amid a declining market where total industry sales have fallen 14.5 percent last year, with the luxury car segment taking a big 18.4-percent fall.

DTI sets grounds for recall of asbestos-laden products

TRADE Secretary for Consumer Welfare Adrian Cristobal Jr. laid the basis for the possible recall of products containing asbestos at the Balangkasan Forum of the United Architects of the Philippines recently.

Cristobal said the DTI "will take steps to order the removal of products from the market once we have established the clear connection between asbestos-containing products with lung cancer and asbestosis."

In a speech read for him by Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) director Jesus Motoomull, Cristobal said that, in the interest of consumer protection, he would authorize an investigation of reports that asbestos were being imported in big quantities by local companies.

Such importation, he said, "increases the risk of exposure to the toxic substance."

Motoomull pledged that the bureau "would go as far as product recall if the harmful effects of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) are proven . . . because nothing can be as costly as destroying human life."

Motoomull cited the need for a "legislative agenda defining the requirements for the use of these products if only to ensure our consignors' safety and protection."

Motoomull joined former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto R. Yasay Jr. and John Balass, president of James Hardie Philippines, as principal discussants at the forum.

The UAP Balangkasan Forum, with the theme "Ensuring an Asbestos-Free Environment," was organized "to provide architects full information on the health hazards posed by ACMs," according to Armin B. Sarthou, UAP national executive vice president.

Michael V. Tomeldan, Balangkasan chair, also said the forum gave the UAP the "opportunity to note existing laws and regulations and to determine whether these provide adequate protection for the health and safety of Filipinos."

"The Philippine national standards set the basis, as far as government policy, to ban a product or allow its sale in the market," Motoomull explained, adding that "while we still do not have these standards on ACMs, we follow international standards and use available guidance regarding certain products like cement sheets, pipes, raw materials, etc."

Motoomull cited UAP's "vital role in pushing the agenda for banning harmful construction materials and products. Government alone cannot do this," he said. "This should be a partnership between organizations like the UAP, the private sector and government."

In the same forum, the UAP issued a resolution initiating a move to find "viable alternative construction materials and products—if the use of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials cannot be made safe." The resolution also noted that "it is a proven fact that exposure to asbestos is harmful to the human body, particularly in cases of prolonged exposure to asbestos or ACMs."

Failure to develop strong export sector blamed on changes in gov't

A FORMER government minister blamed the frequent changes in the administration and the lack of focus by businessmen for the country's failure to nurture competitive export industries.

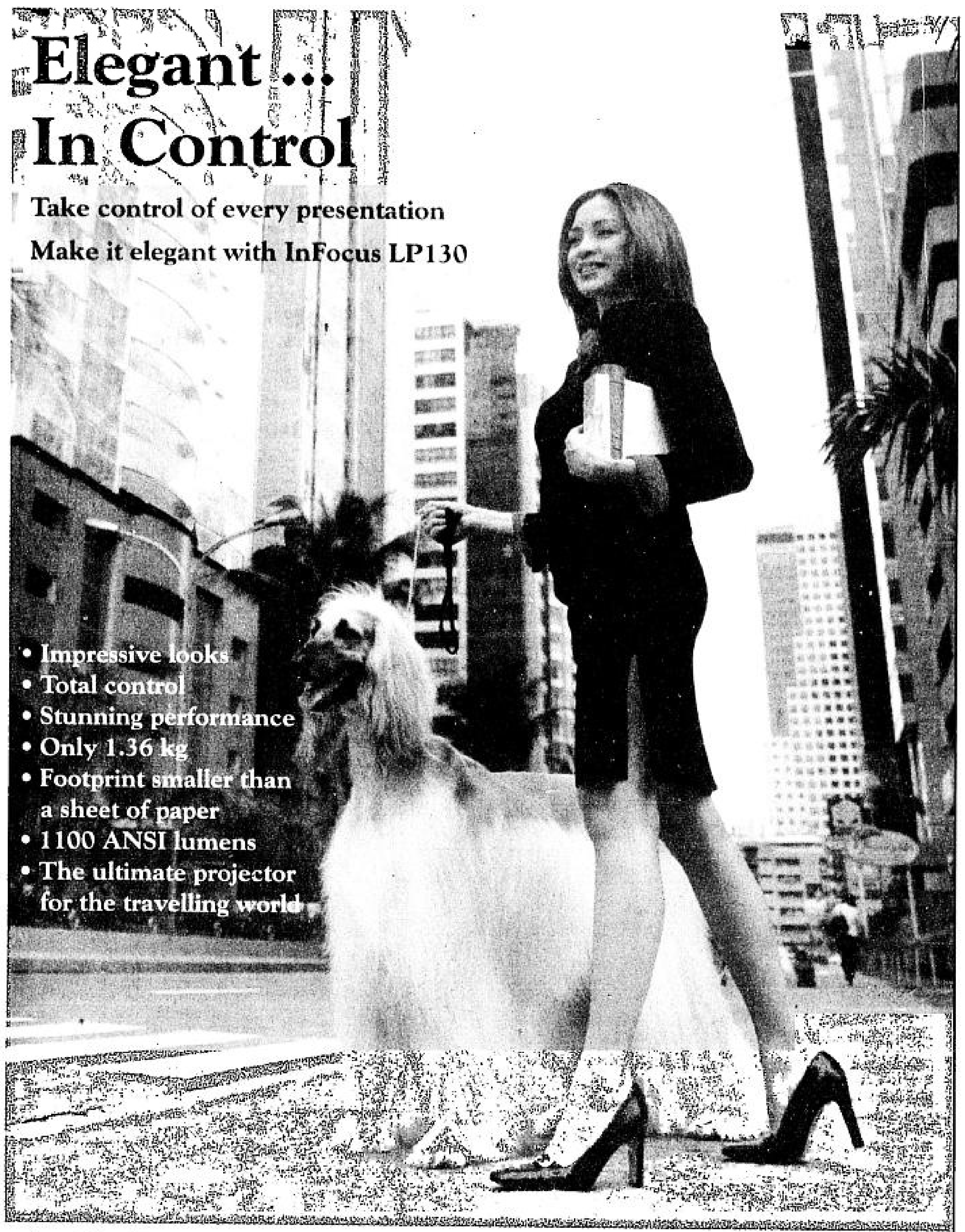
Former Department of Science and Technology Secretary Ceferino L. Follosco said that while the government and the private sector have been able to come up with good strategies for export development, they have failed miserably in the implementation stage.

Follosco said these strategies could not be carried out because the administration keeps changing leaders while the private sector has too many things on its plate.

Follosco said there should be a stable period of leadership in the government which should be long enough to carry out their plans while businessmen should band together to concentrate on industries where the Philippines could create niches of excellence.

He remained optimistic that development through sustained focus on industry winners was still the best route for an economy dominated by agriculture. He stressed the need for industries to boost their productivity and move forward to higher value-added products to maximize the country's limited resources. Follosco said the Philippines could still be world-class players in copra, sugar and abaca.

Follosco is this year's recipient of the Philippine Quality and Productivity Awardee by the Philippine Quality and Productivity Movement Inc. for his contributions in quality and productivity improvement and management in the country. The PQPM yesterday started its two-day annual congress with its goal of bringing together key government and business personalities to discuss, exchange knowledge and ideas, and eventually come up with an integrated national quality and productivity agenda for Filipinos.



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Asian worries are overdone–report

SINGAPORE—Worries about political instability in Asia in the aftermath of the global terrorism crisis have been overblown, but economic troubles are real and growing, a Standard Chartered Bank report said Friday.

The events following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States have raised caution among investors worldwide, adding further burden to Asia's already weak economies, it said.

"The impression given a few weeks ago was that countries like Malaysia and Indonesia were encountering serious disturbances," said Gerard Lyons, the bank's head of global markets research, referring to widely publicized anti-US demonstrations by hard-line Islamic protesters in Jakarta and rumblings of rising Islamic extremism in Kuala Lumpur.

"Nothing could have been further from the truth. Cities like Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta were relatively peaceful," Lyons said in the report written after a tour through the region.

But he said there was "much unease" about the US-led bombing strikes against suspected terrorist targets in Afghanistan.

The unease was "clearly important and the situation (in the region) could always change," he said.

On Thursday, an Indonesian Islamic scholar said Muslim hardliners in Indonesia may gain wide publicity but in reality they are a small group who do not pose a real threat.

Azyumardi Azra, president of the State University for Islamic Studies, said at a seminar in Singapore that "this hard-line kind of political Islam has very little prospect in Indonesia" where majority of Muslims are moderates.

Lyons said that a clear implication of the events after Sept. 11 was the "heightened risk aversion" among global investors.

But he stressed it would be wrong to blame the cautious approach to Asia solely on the post-Sept. 11 developments.

"A key problem is the weakness of the Asian economies," he said, highlighting the export-dependent economies of Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

While the export slack has hurt Singapore and Malaysia, which are largely dependent on the US market, Hong Kong's rising exposure to China has so far shielded it from the impact of the slowing US economy, he said.

Chief economist gives bleak Japanese outlook

TOKYO—Japanese Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka painted a bleak picture of the ailing economy on Friday, saying he believed it to be in a more severe state than the government's official assessment suggested.

"We have to make a comprehensive judgment based on all available data. But in my personal view, the economy is becoming more severe," he told a news conference, hinting the government might downgrade its economic assessment in its November report.

In October, the government maintained its already grim view, saying "the economy continues to deteriorate" and highlighted the risks in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Japan's economy, reeling from weak domestic demand, was dealt a further blow by a sharp slowdown by the US economy, which shrank at an annualized 0.4 percent in the third quarter.

Japan's economy is also expected to post a contraction for the July-September quarter, which will put it technically in recession, its fourth in a decade.

The government seems resigned to a contraction for the entire year.

Takenaka is set to announce a revision of the government's unrealistic growth forecast of 1.7 percent for the current fiscal year when the government submits an extra budget to parliament next week.

Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said later in the day, he wanted the government to issue a fresh, medium-term outlook on the economy by mid-December, when it would decide on the next fiscal year's budget.

He said the outlook should not focus on figures but rather on the government's expectations on fiscal conditions, and it should be announced together with detailed plans on deregulation and the restructuring of government-affiliated agencies.

The Bank of Japan's nine-member policy board on Monday produced a core forecast for economic contraction of between 0.9 and 1.2 percent for the current fiscal year ending in March.

Takenaka declined to say whether he thought the economy was on the brink of a deflationary spiral, but said he would closely watch consumer confidence, income and personal consumption.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's top economic advisers met on Friday to discuss a broad platform for the government's budget for the fiscal year 2002/03, as well as a medium-term vision for Japan's economy.

"This will be the most intense one-month period for the Koizumi administration," Takenaka said.

The Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy is expected to discuss regulatory reform, banks' non-performing loans, deflation and the "hollowing out" of industry, as well as the key reform sectors of the budget.

The CEFP's basic framework is expected to be hammered out during the month so it can be used for compiling the general outline for next year's budget, Takenaka said.

Reuters

Argentina unveils key economic bailout plans

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentina unveiled last-ditch measures late on Thursday aimed at saving the ailing economy from bankruptcy by restructuring its entire $132-billion public debt and boosting consumer spending.

Dismissing fears of devaluation or default that have rattled world markets already skittish at the prospect of a global economic downturn, the government announced consumer- and business-friendly measures, including tax rebates to jump-start the economy.

But while most investors initially gave the voluntary debt-restructuring plan the thumbs up, details were scant, leaving them asking what sacrifice bondholders would be asked to make.

"We are at the limit of what we can stand, we have a debt that has left us stagnant for decades, without credibility, without credit, without growth, but we have the will to change," President Fernando De la Rua said in a prerecorded televised speech flanked by Cabinet ministers.

"It is time for us to face the problems we've been postponing for 50 years. It is time to rebuild the brand of Argentina," the president said, urging Argentines to spend more to help shake off an economic slump now in its fourth year.

The government expects to save a minimum of $4 billion in debt interest payments in 2002 thanks to the swap and to reduce the interest it pays on its debt to 7 percent or less.

Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, who has pledged to end deficit spending with the help of spending cuts in the central government and the provinces, wants to trim by 40 percent the $10 billion seen needed to service its debt burden next year. Argentina faces debt payments of around $2 billion this month alone.

The package of measures is widely seen as the last chance for Latin America's No. 3 economy to head off the biggest sovereign debt default in history for a nation cut off from international credit and cold-shouldered by the International Monetary Fund after $22 billion in bailouts since December 2000.

The IMF declined immediate comment on the package other than to say it was reviewing the measures.

Reuters

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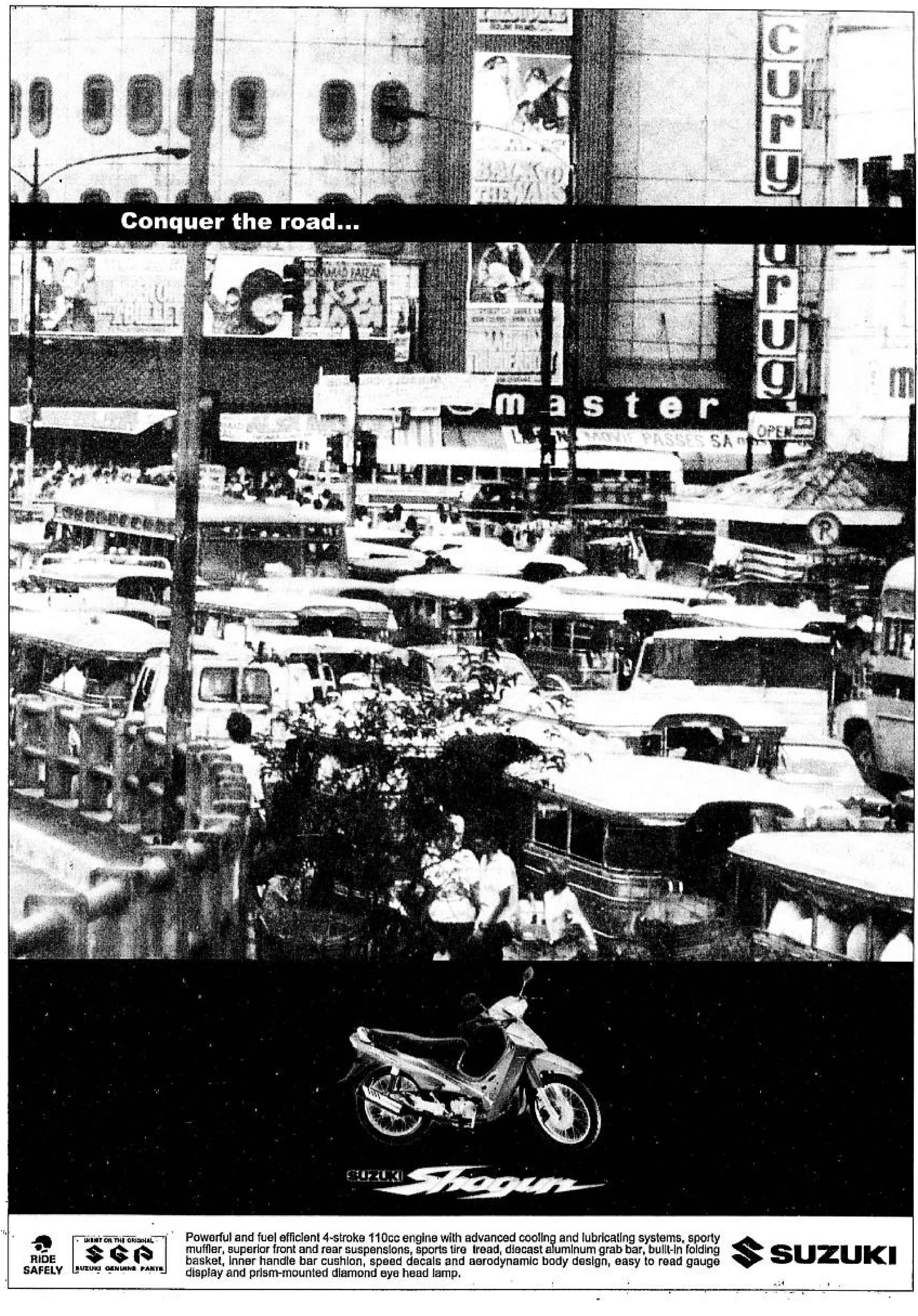

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Makati City

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of CADP will be held at the New World Hotel, Makati City on **28 November 2001** at 9:00 o'clock in the morning. The Agenda of the Meeting is as follows:

(1) Certification of Notice and Quorum;
(2) Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on 29 November 2000;
(3) Presentation of the Annual Report to Stockholders;
(4) Approval and Ratification of All Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and Management;
(5) Approval, confirmation and ratification of the Sugar Consolidation Plan approved by the Board of Directors on 8 October 2001, involving the Company, Central Azucarera de la Carlota ("CAC"), Phoenix Sugar Corporation ("Phoenix"), CADP Consultancy Services, Inc. ("CADP Consultancy") and CADP Farm Services, Inc. ("CADP Farms"), which plan involves: (a) the transfer to Phoenix of the Batangas sugar business (all related assets [excluding the land, advances to CAC, and certain investment] and liabilities) of the Company in exchange for 500,000,000 Phoenix shares; and (b) the subsequent transfer to CAC of the Company's 500,250,000 Phoenix shares; 2,500 CADP Consultancy shares, and 2,500 CADP Farms shares in exchange for 1,302,782,472 CAC common shares;
(6) Approval of the amendment to the First Article of the Articles of Incorporation changing the name of the Company from "Central Azucarera Don Pedro" to "Roxas Holdings, Inc.";
(7) Approval of the amendment to the Second Article of the Articles of Incorporation so as to state that the first purpose of the Company is that of an investment and holding company;
(8) Election of the Board of Directors;
(9) Election of External Auditors;
(10) Other matters.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on **15 October 2001** as the Record Date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Accordingly, only stockholders of record as of Record Date will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

Stockholders who will not be able to attend the meeting may designate their proxies and send the proxy forms to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than **20 November 2001**. Registration will start at 8:30 in the morning on the date of the scheduled meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

(Sgd.) **FLORENCIO M. MAMAUAG, JR.**
Assistant Corporate Secretary

(PDI – Nov. 5, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF BUGALLON [Pangasinan], INC. [RBBI]

1. Pursuant to the commitment of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to promptly service claims for insured deposits, initial payoff operations will be conducted in the closed Rural Bank of Bugallon (Pangasinan), Inc. for the settlement of insured deposits with balances of P10,000.00 and below. Depositors whose deposit balances are within the said amount are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from November 6 to December 3, 2001, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   Settlement of insured deposits above P10,000.00 will be made and announced as soon as the examination of deposits is completed by PDIC.

2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit and/or latest bank statement and unused check/s; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

3. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Bugallon (Pangasinan) Inc. is on April 8, 2003. After April 8, 2003, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Nov. 5 & 6, 2001)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Seasoned Prog'mer to Develop Acctg. Software Call 805-3894 Bring Bio Data to #31 Hyacinth Rd. Pilar Vill. Las Pinas City on Nov. 7&8, 2001

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the ff. MERALCO Stock Cert. Class A&B issued to Patricia G. Paras were declared lost: A0332404 239shrs, A0340700 71shrs, A0514279 93shrs, A0575576 80shrs, B0190197 159shrs, B0199412 47shrs, B0249802 61shrs, B0292348 53shrs
PDI-Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 2001

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day. It has never failed.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

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Eleuteria P. Cortés

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 3, 2001
at the age of 89.

Her loving children and their spouses **Juliana** & **Juan**, **Leticia**, **Nelia** & **Tomas**, and **Maria Aurora**; her grandchildren and their spouses **Melit** & **Chito**, **Jimmy** & **Emy**, **Winnie** & **Cecille**, **Tommy** & **Cynthia**, **Cito** and **Marie**, **Cecile** & **Lovell**, **George** & **Betsy**, **Rory**, **Reuben** and **Romano**; and her great grandchildren **Jake**, **Nicole**, **Aaron**, **Erin**, **GJ**, **Mika**, **Alette**, **Nitoy**, **Miggy**, **Drew**, **Zoe** and **Ian** request kind readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, New Manila, in the Chapel of St. Joseph.

"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race and won, I have kept the faith."

The Board of Directors, Stockholders, Management Staff and Employees of

LC BATTERY & PARTS SUPPLY INC.

Mourn the passing of their Vice President and Marketing Director

Mrs. Zenaida Capili Lumba

who joined her Creator on November 3, 2001 at the age of 69.

Her remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church, Mahinhin Street, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 7, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the family plot at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Grant eternal rest unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace.

Message of Thanks

We, the bereaved family, of the late

CONNIE YAP WONG

who joined her Creator on October 3, 2001

wish to convey our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to all those who condoled with us, offered prayers and Masses, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, attended the funeral rites and comforted us in our deepest hour of sorrow.

May our memory of Connie's love and generosity inspire us to fill the void that she has left.

We continue to ask all
those whose lives Connie
has touched to remember
her in their prayers.

CRISPULO MARQUEZ PATDU, JR.

of Putatan, Muntinlupa City

Joined his Creator on Friday, November 2, 2001
at the age of 56.

His loving wife **Estrella**; and bereaved children **Crispulo Ulysses III**, **Cristela Wednesday**, **Margarita Amythyst** and **Enrique**; grandchildren **Margarita Erika** and **Enrique Daniel, Jr.**; relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 7 Estanislao Street, Lakeview Homes, Putatan, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 7, 2001 at Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa after the Mass at 1:30 PM at Our Lady of Abandoned Church, Poblacion, Muntinlupa.

DIONISIO LOPEZ FALGUI, JR.

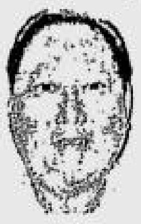
July 15, 1935 — November 5, 1996

Balaoan, La Union-Tabuk, Kalinga

On the **fifth death anniversary** of his death, his wife **Amor Palacio**; children **William Dio** and **Brenda Omengan**, **Dionisio III** and **Loretto Gonzales**, **Richard Dio** and **Liezl Jurvena**, **Maria Diana** and **Thom John Dalsen**; grandchildren **Denise**, **Diowi**, **Morel**, **Lexi**, **Dio IV**, **Diolo** and **Amorrine**; other relatives and friends remember **Fiscal Falgui** with love, pride and honor.

In Memoriam

BENJAMIN "MANG BEN" LEUNG Sr.



(September 19, 1927 - November 5, 2000)
is lovingly remembered by his family on
the First Anniversary of his death

Prayers will be offered for him during the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Santa Cruz Church and N.P. Jesus Nazareno de Quiapo in Manila, Santo Domingo Church and Lourdes Church in Quezon City at 12:00 noon today, November 5, 2001.

Prayers are requested for the eternal repose of his soul.

Our Dearly Beloved

Architect RAMON PABLO 'Moning' CUNA PEDRAZA, FPIA

Peacefully joined our Creator on November 3, 2001
at the age of 81.

His brothers and sisters **Julio Jr.** (†) and **Minda** (†), **Naning** and **Carmen**, **Lulu** and **Peping** (†) **Tan**, **Aging**, **Loly** and **Carling Mercado**, **Toñing** and **Nita**, **Maty** and **James Salinas**; nephews and nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. John Chapel, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 7, 2001 at Laloma Cemetery, Caloocan after the 9:00 AM Mass at Sto. Domingo Church.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
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GLORIA CORAZON (Tetet) A. GARCIA

of Amparo Novaville Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 31, 2001 at the age of 24.

Her loving parents **Lito** and **Cora**; brothers **Gabriel Angelo** & **Gil Florentino**; sister **Ma. Roxanne** & sister-in-law **Shiela**; her grandparents, uncles, aunties, cousins and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Holy Family Chapel in Amparo Novaville Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 6, 2001 at the Serenity Memorial Park, Caloocan City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Family Chapel.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

Nonilon M. Medina

Son of the late Col. Crispino S. Medina and Mrs. Cresencia M. Medina

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 2, 2001 at the age of 45.

His bereaved mother Cresencia, siblings and their spouses Alma and Danny, Emmanuel and Melinda, Chris, Marife; nephews David and Isaac; nieces Jennifer, Celina, Rachel and Ana Sofia, and all relatives and friends remember him with love and request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to the family residence at Muñoz, Nueva Ecija after the 7:00 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, November 6, 2001.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 8, 2001 at the Muñoz Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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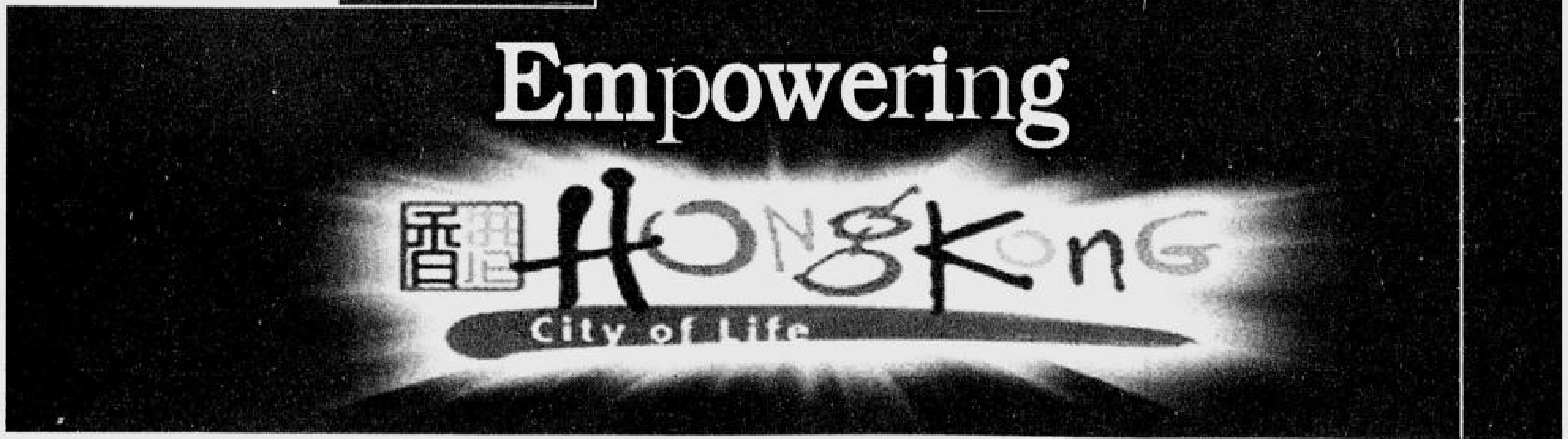
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

RISE E-COMMERCE SYSTEMS INC.



Rise E-Commerce Systems, the company that aims to empower Filipino Consumers crash down its boundaries in empowering the people.

We have just established our **Business Center Operations** in **Hong Kong** to reach out and empower more Filipinos, especially our Oversesas Filipino Contract Workers.

Now, Filipinos even outside the country can get the chance to benefit from the consumer empowerment programs of Rise E-Commerce Systems through its **Global Mutual-Sharing** Principle.

Global Mutual-Sharing Principle is a revolutionary way of creating an avenue for a profitable market exchange system wherein buyers and sellers mutually share and benefit from each others strengths and resources. Through this unique path, elements who take park of the road enjoy unlimited benefits and opportunities like power to:

- Choose high-quality goods at very affordable prices.
- Spend and earn at the same time.
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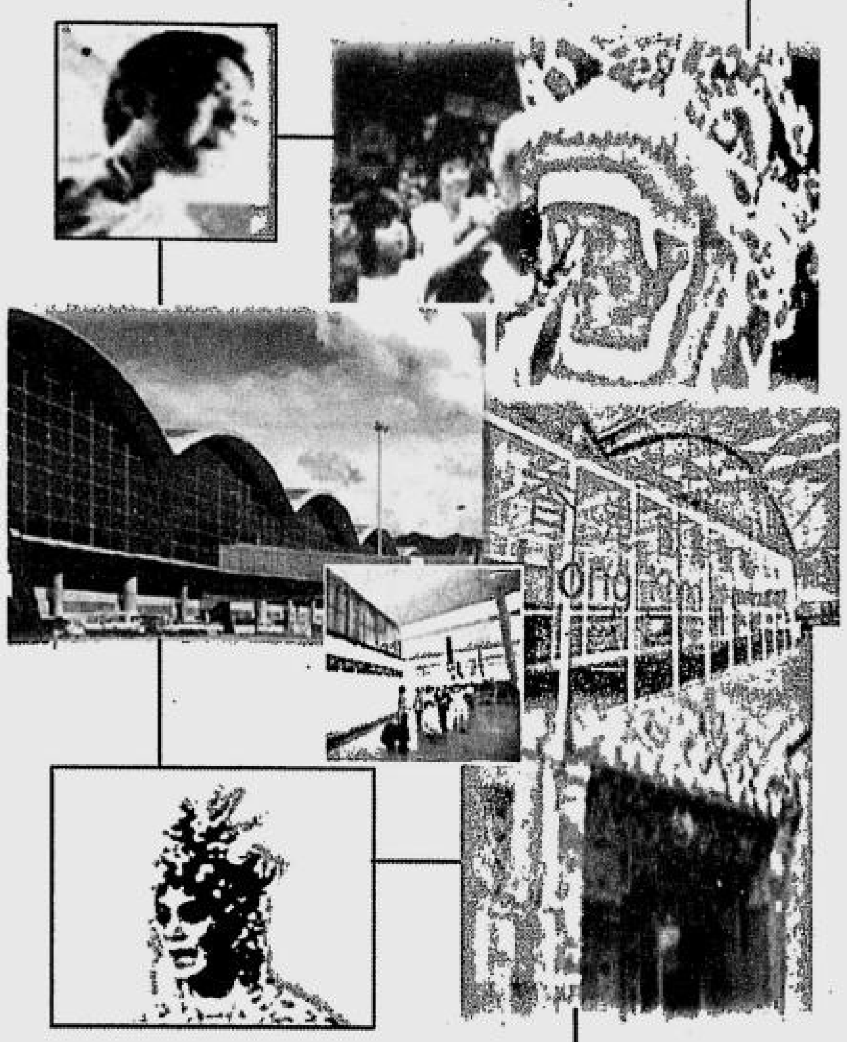

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The AFP Medical Center invites bidders to Pre-Qualify and to bid for supply and delivery of Medicines and Medical Supplies for CY 2002.

Pre-bid conference will be held on 9:00 a.m. **15 November 01** at OCO Conference Room, AFPMC, V Luna Road, Quezon City. Failure to attend the Pre-Bid conference on the specified time and date automatically disqualifies any bidder to participate in the bidding.

The AFP Medical Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality, and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO D. BERNARDO**
Colonel MC (GSC)
Chairman, BNAC

(PDI – Nov. 5, 6 & 12, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

In the Matter of the Change of Name Petition Entry No. ______
In the Certificate of Live Birth of Maria Alma Apolinar Biloy

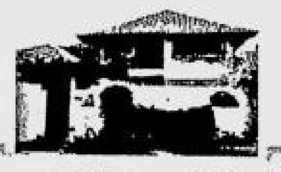
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The public is hereby notified that Maria Alma Apolinar Biloy has filed with this Office a petition for the change of first name from "Alma Villa" to "Maria Alma" in the Certificate of Live Birth of Maria Alma Apolinar Biloy

At the expense of the petitioner, let a copy of this petition be published at least once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cagayan de Oro. Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition may, within fifteen (15) calendar days, file his written opposition with this office

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI – Oct. 29 & Nov. 5, 2001)



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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR RESETTLEMENT AREAS

The National Housing Authority is soliciting proposals from real estate developers to provide developed or partially developed subdivisions with at least 500 housing units constructed or to be constructed for Cebu City, and at least 300 housing units constructed or to be constructed for Iloilo City, or rawland of at least 10 hectares for Cebu City and five (5) hectares for Iloilo City, with proposal to develop the same as socialized housing within the city of Cebu or nearby city of Talisay and Iloilo City. These project sites shall be utilized as resettlement sites for families in the danger areas and along waterways in the cities of Cebu and Iloilo as provided for under RA 8522 (Poverty Alleviation Fund-3).

Interested parties may secure the Terms of Reference (TOR) directly from the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City or through the Project Manager, NHA Cebu Project Office, 2/F Yusing Building, F. Ramos St., Cebu City and through the Project Manager, NHA Iloilo Project Office, Bgy. Bakhaw, Mandurriao, Iloilo City upon submission of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of P200.00, and thereafter, submit the specific proposal in accordance with the TOR together with complete supporting documents addressed to the Chairman, Project Evaluation Committee, National Housing Authority at the NHA Cebu Project Office, on the deadline set in the TOR. The last day of issuance of the Terms of Reference is on **November 21, 2001.** The Pre-submission Conference for both projects shall be held on **November 23, 2001,** 10:00 a.m. at the NHA Cebu Project Office.

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive formalities on any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager/
Chairman, Project Evaluation Committee

(PDI – Nov. 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Municipality of Malitbog
-oOo-

OFFICE OF THE PBAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Malitbog, Bukidnon through the Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium A & B for Road, to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility screening and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the DAR-ADB Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP) as follows:

Contract Name/Location of Project	Approved Budget For Contract Works	Calendar Days (Duration)
- Rehabilitation of Poblacion - Mindagat Farm-to-Market Road	P8,624,940.00	154 CD

Interested Contractors legally owning desirable heavy equipments such as bulldozer, grader, road roller, backhoe, water truck, concrete vibrator and concrete mixer shall submit their Letter of Intent and duly accomplished Pre-Qualification Statement (Pre-C) to the PBAC Chairman, LGU, Malitbog, Bukidnon on **November 15, 2001**. Eligibility screening shall be held on **November 15-16, 2001** at about 9:00 A.M. New Municipal Hall, Malitbog, Bukidnon.

Only Contractors duly registered with the Department of Public Works and Highways and holding a valid Contractor Registration Certificate (CRC) are allowed to participate in the eligibility screening.

Bid documents will be available to pre-qualified bidders from **November 22, 2001 to November 29, 2001** at the Municipal Engineer's Office, Municipal Hall upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P600.00.

Submission of bid proposal in two sealed envelopes to the PBAC Chairman and Opening of Bids will be on **December 14, 2001**, 9:00-10:00 A.M. at the Municipal Conference Hall.

Bids with submitted bid prices that are higher than the approved budget for the contract under bidding shall be rejected outright.

All particulars relative to Pre-qualification, Eligibility, Bid Security, Performance Bond, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the Provisions of P.D. 1594 as amended on August 2000 and Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Municipal Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **OSMUNDO N. DELA ROSA**
Municipal Mayor/PBAC Chairman

(PDI--Nov. 1, 2 & 5, 2001)

No glitz for local Win XP launch

BY ERWIN OLIVA

THE GLITZ is out. Microsoft is now after substance and lasting impressions.

"Filipino users today are more sophisticated. They don't want to be told to buy Microsoft," admitted Mark Yambot, marketing director of Microsoft Philippines.

Microsoft Philippines held a three-day Windows XP blitz that began Monday last week with its resellers and partners. The firm targeted corporate customers Tuesday, and then held a "rain party" Wednesday, inviting thousands of users to dance "under the rain" with or without raincoats.

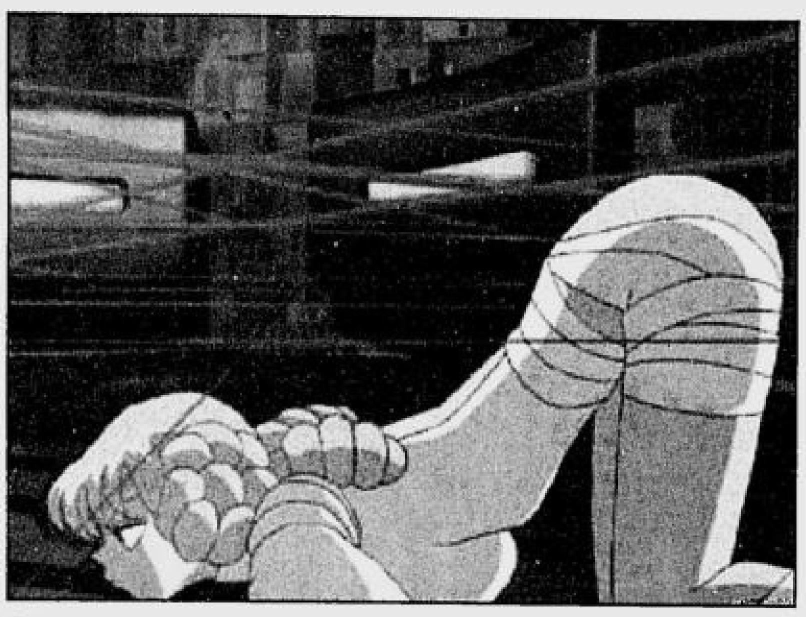
"Windows XP is the next biggest thing since the launch of Windows 95," Yambot said, when asked how much Microsoft Philippines is spending for the introduction of the new operating system in the country.

Mae Rivera, Microsoft Philippines marketing and communications manager, said that the software company is spending "huge" amounts on the local blitz, but declined to disclose figures.

Microsoft in the United States tapped pop stars Madonna and Sting, even paying an undisclosed sum to use Madonna's "Ray of Light" for the Windows XP marketing campaign. Meanwhile, the local office literally asked the Ayalas—one of the country's leading business clans and owners of the Greenbelt cinemas in Makati City—to remove the seats in one of the movie houses and transform it into the venue for the three-day expo.

During the first day, the launch was jampacked, with close to 800 resellers and partners attending. On Tuesday, close to 800 corporate customers visited the expo. On Wednesday—Halloween—Micro-

NO/ p.B14



SAMPLE screenshot of the feisty princess from the Starballz website

George Lucas threatens to use 'Force' vs makers of Japanese adult cartoon

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

IS George Lucas falling prey to the Dark Side of the Force?

One thing's for sure: the legendary creator of "Star Wars" is not amused with the makers of a parody porn movie that allegedly violates the copyrights of his highly successful franchise.

Lucas and his company Lucasfilm filed Friday a federal suit in San Francisco against the makers of an X-rated animated film called "Starballz," according to a report from E! Online.

"Starballz" is an example of hentai or adult animé, while animé refers to Japanese or Japanese-style animation. Animé is a big hit in the Philippines and in many other countries outside Japan.

The title is apparently a play on both "Star Wars" and "Dragon Ball Z," since characters strikingly similar to Goku and other "Dragon Ball" mainstays are in the film.

Media Market Group, the producers of the animé, deny that the movie shamelessly rips off "Star Wars," pointing out that it is a parody that also satirizes different movies and aspects of pop culture. Media Market Group maintains a website, where surfers can download a demo trailer or look at sample screenshots. The site also allows users to buy the "Starballz" DVD online.

GEORGE/ p.B14

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Local schools to compete in first cybercompetition

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

ELEMENTARY and high school students have become more familiar with the Internet because of network gaming. Just go to a nearby cybercafé, and there you will find young Filipinos enamored with these games, as they spend endless hours hunting down each other in a virtual arena provided by popular games like Counterstrike.

A group of Filipino organizations, however, aim to gradually teach young Filipino kids what the Internet is all about, and how it can help build communities.

Inspired by the International Schools Cyberfair competition—a yearly online competition joined by over 50,000 students worldwide from over 700 countries, the Philippine Internet Commerce Society, with the help of online educational community www.Iskul.Org, and Philippine news portal INQ7.net, the first Philippine School Cyberfair competition at www.cyberfair.ph was organized recently to encourage Filipino elementary and high school students to start a Web project that tells the story of their local community.

While it is not exactly a "Webby Awards" type of competition, the Philippine School Cyberfair aims to be a learning program where students can conduct research about their local communities then publish their findings on the World Wide Web, said Matthew Andrew Yngson, founder and president of www.Iskul.Org Inc.

There will be eight categories: local leaders, businesses, community organizations, historical landmarks, environment, music, art, and local specialties, Yngson said.

Each school will be limited to a single entry.

"We expect schools to pool their resources. It will be a content-driven competition. This initiative aims to know what is going on in the rest of the schools in the country," Yngson added.

The organizers of the first Philippine School Cyberfair are hoping that the Department of Education, Culture and Sports can help "spread the word," because the competition wants to target over 7,000 schools in the country.

"If we could get around 10 percent of that, then it's already okay," Mary Ann Tolentino, member of the Philippine Internet Commerce Society, said.

Yngson said that this initiative will not only create awareness in information technology in schools, but will, in return, create awareness on local community issues where the schools are located.

"We will be able to know who needs more resources, who is not connected to the Internet. Content is what we're after, and building a community around it," he said.

This competition, in short, is more of a "showing off of what the local community has to offer than showing off programming and Web design skills," Yngson said.

He said that interested schools can sign up online, while each entry will be given 5 megabytes of website space to work on.

To make it a bit interesting, students themselves will evaluate the projects of other schools and the top 40 entries are reviewed by national judges to determine the winners, according to Yngson. Judging will take place online.

This year's theme is "Care and Unite," in honor of the Sept. 11 tragedy and the ongoing campaign against terrorism and all those who are affected by it.

Deadline of entries has been extended to Nov. 30, Yngson said. Winners will be announced on March 12, 2002.

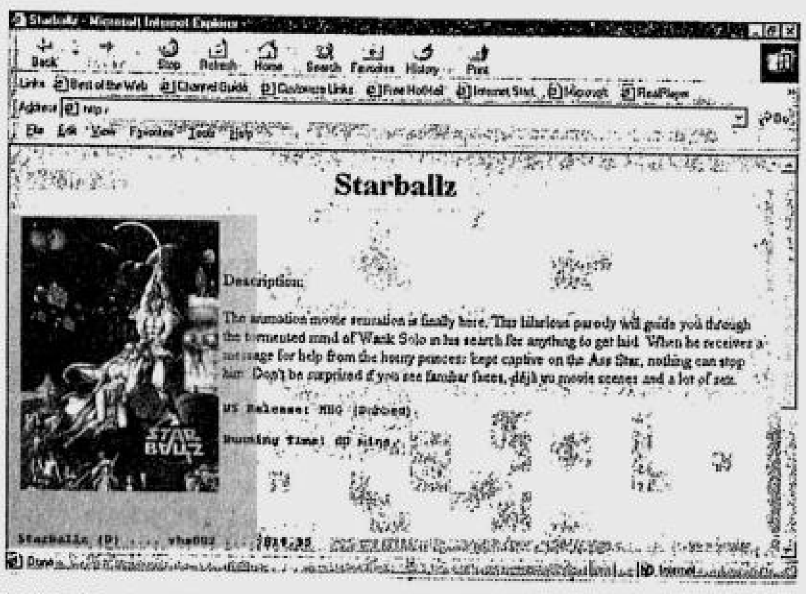
"It would be better if students themselves can construct the websites on their own, but we're not discounting the fact that their teachers will be there to help them. In the end, it will be a collaborative effort by students and teachers," Yngson said.

RP features outsourcing options at Comdex Fall

COMPANIES looking to gain a significant competitive edge in today's open marketplaces and to cut costs amid the global recession are the Philippines' main prospects for its information technology outsourcing service offerings. These offerings will be featured at Comdex Fall 2001 at the Las Vegas Convention Center on Nov. 12-16. The Philippines is making a comeback to the premier IT trade show after a six-year absence to push its bid to be a global IT outsourcing hub.

Cited by US IT consultants Giga Information Group as "the best alternative to India" for IT outsourcing due to the comparative high quality and low costs of its services, the Philippines has the advantage over India of less local competition for talented programmers, the same group said. This observation was earlier established by the Meta Group, another US-based IT consultancy firm, in its Global New E-Economy Index last year which declared the Philippines as having the highest availability of qualified engineers, skilled IT workers and competent senior managers among the 47 nations surveyed which included the United States, India and Australia.

To be showcased at the Philippine Pavilion at Comdex are the country's outsourcing services for call centers and other Customer Relationship Management services as well as for content creation, IT-enabled business processes, engineering and design, knowledge management, application systems development and hosting, Web development and management, and software development. Exhibiting Philippine IT firms include Customer Contact Center Inc., Cyberspace Inc., Designex International Corp. and Tridel Technologies.



Starballz

Description:

The animation movie sensation is finally here. This hilarious parody will guide you through the tormented mind of Wank Solo in his search for anything to get laid. When he receives a message for help from the horny princess kept captive on the Ass Star, nothing can stop him. Don't be surprised if you see familiar faces, déjà vu movie scenes and a lot of sex.

US Release: [illegible]

Running time: [illegible]

DETAILS about the controversial adult cartoon parody of "Star Wars" are all over the Web.

George Lucas . . .

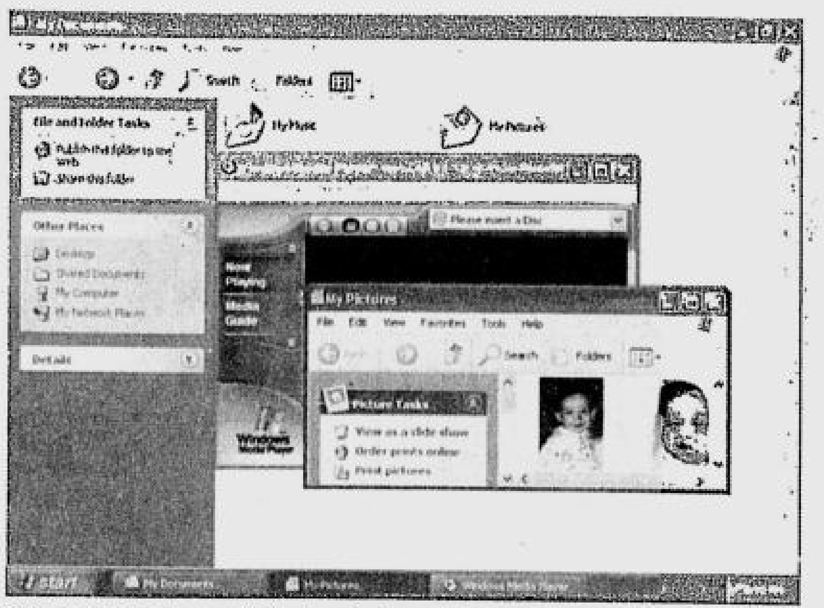
(From page B13)

In the suit against the "Starballz" makers, Lucasfilm filed a cease-and-desist order to prevent the producers from further distributing the film.

After visiting the site, this writer downloaded the demo trailer, which features a very well-endowed Princess Leia lookalike in a fast-paced action sequence against the enemies aboard the Ass Star. The demo is not X-rated, though those who are offended by pornography or who are underage should not enter the site. Obviously, the movie contains a lot of sex apart from the laughs and thrills—what else can you expect from a movie where the hero is named Wank Solo? In true animé fashion, the trailer was fast-paced and action-packed, and actually appears to be a well-made animated flick.

No glitz for local launch of Microsoft Windows XP

(From page B13)



THE NEW interface of Windows is less cluttered

soft saw thousands flocking to the rain party that was held on top of one of the parking lot buildings in Makati City.

"People are excited to see what XP is all about," Rivera added.

So what's all this fuss over Windows XP? And why is Microsoft saying that this is the next big thing since Windows 95?

Microsoft is leaving behind the 12-year-old technology called DOS (disk operating system), and is starting afresh with Windows XP, Yambot said. Some say it is a complete "overhaul" of the Windows as we know it. The new user interface, called Luna, looks less cluttered (and even feels more like the Apple Macintosh).

Also, Microsoft has added more multimedia applications to XP, including the new Windows Media Player that hopes to be "the media player" of personal computers and even other devices such as the Pocket PC-based handhelds.

"At this point or in the next 30 days after the launch, our goal is not to sell XP but at least get customers to try it out," Yambot said. "But we're expecting one-third of our existing customers in the Philippines to upgrade to Windows XP within the year."

Yambot said that Microsoft is also expecting new PCs sold in the Philippines to run on XP.

An off-the-shelf upgrade from Windows 98 to Windows XP Home Edition will cost around P6,500, while a full Home Edition version will cost around P13,000, according to Yambot.

"Right now, our strongest competitor is piracy in the Philippines. However, I believe that the Philippines is better off now than five years ago (when the piracy level was more than 90 percent, based on Business Software Alliance figures)," he said. "We expect to sell better with today's environment because XP will change the way people work. And we're making a conscious effort to send that message out to our users."

XP to become MS weapon in digital media battle

By Joey G. Alarilla

WILL Windows XP also help Microsoft Corp. conquer the online music market?

The software giant has been touting its latest operating system (OS) as a revolutionary way of experiencing computing and the Internet—and the information technology industry is hoping that this hyperbole will turn out to be reality. Launched in New York on Oct. 25 and formally introduced in the Philippines through a three-day expo which started Monday last week, Windows XP is somewhat burdened by the expectations of a sluggish industry hoping it could help jumpstart the IT market. Microsoft chair Bill Gates has promised that this new kind of experience will give consumers reason to upgrade and buy new systems—sweet music to the ears of a PC industry suffering an all-time low.

Windows XP, however, may also prove to be Microsoft's weapon of mass destruction (okay, pardon the hyperbole) in the digital media wars. Microsoft has announced that more than 150 companies are supporting the digital media features of the new OS, according to a report from CNN.

This means that a broad spectrum of industries will develop new media products and services around the new OS, according to a press statement on the Microsoft website released on the eve of the Windows XP launch. These include the software development industry, the service provider industry, the entertainment industry, and the consumer electronics and hardware manufacturing industry.

While still in its infancy, the online music industry is seen as one of the potential e-commerce gold mines, if only music companies and IT developers can find a way of translating the huge popularity of MP3 audio files into subscribed (read: paying) services. MP3 file swapping was the life and (near) death of the wildly popular Napster and its kin, but the question is how to generate money from all those music fans frenziedly downloading and exchanging free music files. For example, as an Internet enthusiast, I love Napster and the even earlier but less known Gnutella peer-to-peer file exchange technology, and as a music lover, I love MP3. But even though the big recording companies may seem like corporate vultures, they're understandably seeing the skull and crossbones in the face of the evolution of online music.

The interesting thing about Windows XP's digital media features is that Microsoft might finally be able to generate enough licensing support to topple MP3 as the de facto digital audio standard and supplant it with its own Windows Media Audio (WMA). Windows Media Player, of course, has gone from a throwaway accessory into a sleek digital tool that also happens to be RealNetworks' worst nightmare. Familiar territory: didn't most people laugh at Internet Explorer as the poor man's Netscape Navigator, until IE 3.0 came out?

If you think that Microsoft isn't serious about becoming the king of digital media, a lot of allies are out to help it win this war, including Mercury Interactive, MusicMatch, Compaq and the other half of the WinTel standard, Intel. Also, more than 113 Windows Media service providers are

XP/ p.B15

IBM says Informix customers not forced to migrate to DB2

By Erwin Oliva

COMPUTER giant IBM said recently that it is not forcing Informix customers to migrate to DB2 (the company's own database software). Officials said the company would wait until it comes up with a combined product that mixes the strengths of Informix and IBM database solutions.

IBM acquired the ailing database software company for $1 billion this year, boosting its position in the $8.8-billion market for database software.

Market research group Gartner reported that IBM currently owns 33.1 percent of the market, while Oracle and Microsoft hold 33.8 percent and 14.9 percent, respectively.

Database systems have become popular as businesses and websites have begun requiring software that stores, manages and retrieves data efficiently. IBM's biggest competitors in this software business include Oracle and Microsoft.

"In two to three years, we will come out with a single product line of database software," said Bobby Sukumar, technical manager of the IBM Software Group.

The IBM-Informix team released in September the Informix Dynamic Server (IDS) version 9.3, the latest database software meant for existing Informix customers.

The release of the new database software appears to be an IBM "reassurance" to Informix customers because it is afraid of losing them to competitors.

"We don't want to lose market share. That's why IBM is putting money on (IDS)," Sukumar said.

Teddy Tiu, country sales manager of the IBM Philippines Software Group, added: "We wanted Informix's installed base and some functionalities their database software possesses. Meanwhile, it is also important that we protect this installed base and their investments."

Informix has an installed base of about 200,000 customers worldwide.

Future applications, however, will be better off running on DB2 than Informix's IDS, Sukumar said, because DB2 has been the database software of choice of IBM.

"DB2 is the logical direction," Sukumar added.

Sukumar said that while the next versions of IDS "will not go through major changes," the company will continue to provide support to users of these systems.

WHAT IS?

DB2—A relational database management system (RDBMS) for large business computers that, according to IBM, leads in terms of database market share and performance. Although DB2 products are offered for Unix-based systems and personal computer operating systems, DB2 trails Oracle's database products in Unix-based systems and Microsoft's Access in Windows systems. In addition to its offerings for the mainframe OS/390 and VM operating systems and its mid-range AS/400 systems, IBM offers DB2 products for a cross-platform spectrum that includes Linux, HP-UX, Sun Solaris and SCO UnixWare, and for its OS/2 operating system. DB2 databases can be accessed from any application program by using Microsoft's Open Database Connectivity interface, the Java Database Connectivity interface, or a Corba interface broker.

Dell, EMC sign storage agreement

DELL Corp. and EMC have announced a five-year, multibillion-dollar strategic alliance agreement to accelerate the growth of both companies' storage systems businesses in a market expected to reach $100 billion by 2005.

The agreement pairs the industry's leading computer systems company with the leader in networked information storage systems to serve customers worldwide. Under the agreement, Dell and EMC will co-brand EMC's CLARiiON line of enterprise storage systems. The alliance will make Dell the leading reseller of the CLARiiON product line, which will become Dell's standard offering for storage area networks (SAN) and high-end network-attached storage (NAS) installations.

The relationship enables Dell to address a broader range of customer needs with storage products that provide additional enterprise-class features, including support for Unix operating systems. For EMC, the relationship builds on its strategy to work with partners to significantly increase its market presence in the rapidly growing Windows NT and Windows 2000 storage markets.

"Dell and EMC are both sharply focused companies in the world of information technology," said Sean Derrington, senior program director at Meta Group. "This is a highly complementary relationship that will greatly benefit both firms and their customers."

For services that accompany storage products, Dell will augment its existing, award-winning Premier Enterprise Services with methodologies, tools, best practices and customer training programs from EMC.

Representatives from EMC's renowned global services organization will also support and train Dell service personnel on the technical support and installation of EMC systems.

The companies have also agreed to work together when opportunities in Dell's enterprise customer base require the advanced features and functions of EMC's flagship Symmetrix line of enterprise storage systems and software. The companies will collaborate on the definition and explore the joint development of future open, networked storage systems. Additionally, Dell and EMC will look for opportunities to use Dell's procurement and manufacturing capabilities in the production of EMC CLARiiON products.

"We expect Dell's direct sales model will increase EMC's reach and capability to better service enterprise-class CLARiiON customers, including a much broader set of small and medium-sized businesses," said Joseph Tucci, EMC president and CEO. "The midrange information storage market alone last year was about a $15 billion opportunity, and we were barely scratching the surface with an industry-leading product. The new relationship with Dell will give us an edge to more rapidly gain market share."

"We believe this agreement effectively doubles Dell's market opportunity in the data storage business," said Kevin Rollins, Dell president and COO. "EMC's storage systems complement our own portfolio of enterprise computing systems and services, and customers will be the beneficiaries."

Dell will continue to offer its industry-leading PowerVault direct- and network-attached storage systems and EMC will continue to offer its industry-leading Symmetrix and CLARiiON family of enterprise storage systems and software, directly and through partners, to customers worldwide.

Dell plans to begin offering the EMC products, which include the FC4500, FC5300, FC4700 and IP4700, to customers in November.

US government, MS announce settlement in antitrust case

WASHINGTON—The US Department of Justice and Microsoft on Friday announced a settlement to end the long antitrust case against the software giant.

The settlement "imposes a broad range of restrictions that will stop Microsoft's unlawful conduct, prevent recurrence of similar conduct in the future and restore competition in the software market, achieving prompt, effective and certain relief for consumers and businesses," the Department of Justice said in a statement.

The settlement calls for Microsoft—found guilty last year of abusing its monopoly in the market for operating software—to disclose some technical information to rivals and bars exclusive agreements for Microsoft products.

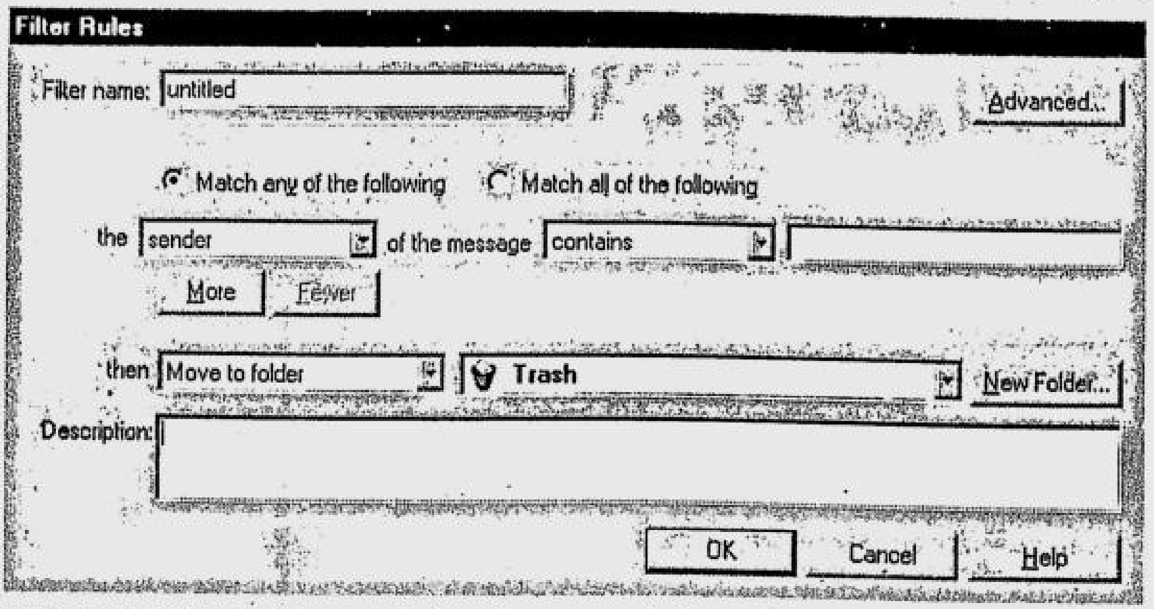
It also calls for uniform licensing terms for Microsoft software and bars the firm from retaliating against computer makers that use rival products.

Compliance will be monitored by a panel of three independent computer experts.

"This settlement will promote innovation, give consumers more choices, and provide the computer industry as a whole with more certainty in the marketplace," said Charles James, head of the Justice Department Antitrust Division. "The goals of the government were to obtain relief that stops Microsoft from engaging in unlawful conduct, prevent any recurrence of that conduct in the future, and restore competition in the software market—we have achieved those goals."

The settlement was to be filed Friday in the US District Court with Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, who must approve the settlement.

But the Wall Street Journal reported that the 18 states that are coplaintiffs in the government's case against the software titan have asked for more time to consider the draft settlement. Their attorney was to ask the judge for more time to file the states' response, with a deadline expected sometime next week, the report said, quoting a source familiar with the negotiations. *AFP*


Filter Rules
Filter name: untitled
● Match any of the following ○ Match all of the following
the sender of the message contains
then Move to folder Trash
Description:

YOU can use filters to make sense out of the chaos you receive in your inbox every day

Organize your e-mail

BY JERRY LIAO

NETSCAPE Messenger allows a user to send e-mail to their designated folders as they are received. For example, business e-mail can go to a business folder or personal e-mail can go directly to a personal folder specified by the user. Here's how to do it:

(1) Open your Netscape Messenger e-mail client.

(2) Create a new e-mail folder.

(3) Go to "Edit" and choose "Message Filters."

(4) The "Message Filters" dialog box will be displayed.

(5) Under the "Filters For" dropdown box, select "Inbox."

(6) Click "New"

(7) The "Filter Rules" dialog box will be displayed.

(8) Select "Sender" under the "The" dropdown box.

(9) Choose "Contains" under the "Of The Message" box.

(10) Type the e-mail address on the box adjacent to the "Of The Message" dropdown box.

(11) Select "Move To Folder" under the "Then" dropdown box.

(12) Then select a folder where you want the new e-mail to be moved as soon as its received.

(13) Click "OK" then "OK."

Philips' speech recognition now supports 35 languages

PHILIPS has announced that its speech recognition technology can now recognize 35 languages and accents and more than one million words in real-time without delay.

This latest technological advancement further extends the capabilities of speech-driven applications worldwide. Soon, people do not have to write notes on their personal digital assitants (PDAs). Notes, like "meeting with boss at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning" or "call boss at his office this afternoon" can easily be activated using the user's voice, language and accent. Dialing a number can likewise be fully voice-activated.

Philips' speech recognition technology has been proven in telephony applications—particularly in its mobile phones—for voice navigation, voice shortcuts, name dialing, digit dialing, natural number dialing and address book management and, lately, voice-to-WAP (browser) and voice memo. The voice-to-WAP and voice memo features are now standard in Philips' new phone models.

In the last few years, the global demand for directory assistance systems has increased, creating the need for more extended vocabulary capabilities. The current typical directory assistance service today prompts the caller for name and address, then searches the database, and provides the telephone number and, if desired, connects the caller. Up until now, most systems would request first name and last name in separate steps.

Now, the new expanded vocabulary from Philips Speech Processing enables the caller to speak to the system as he normally would do to a human operator, giving first name and last name together. Thus, the search for the required telephone number is more natural, faster and makes hold times shorter. Additionally, it allows service providers the opportunity to improve customer service through the use of a more user-friendly system.

The market potential for automated directory assistance is immense as it includes the subcategories of white pages, yellow pages, auto attendants and call-completion services. The new speech recognition technology opens up new opportunities, especially for applications requiring extensive name lists such as stock quote information through voice portals.

Philips has been active in the field of speech recognition technology for more than 20 years now with installations in Europe, North and South America and the Asia-Pacific region. Additionally, Philips is recognized as having pioneered true language understanding with open grammars which allows callers to answer anything to the system's questions, not just the pre-defined answers as in closed grammars.

XP to become MS weapon in digital media battle

(From page B14)

out to lend full support to the Windows XP digital features.

Microsoft has also announced the immediate availability of Microsoft Plus! for Windows XP. Apart from games, themes and screensavers, this package is aimed at digital media enthusiasts, offering an impressive array of multimedia tools. For example, there's the Plus! MP3 Audio Converter, which Microsoft touts as a convenient way of freeing up more space on your hard disk or portable device. Microsoft says that WMA allows you to save as much as 50-percent space compared to an equivalent file in MP3 format. Conveniently, the Plus! MP3 Audio Converter automatically scans MP3 files on your device and converts them to WMA with a click of a button. Resistance is futile. Prepare to be assimilated.

Will digital media be the latest conquest for Microsoft? The company has been impressive in convincing companies to adopt its streaming server solutions and like it or not, Microsoft is already a force to reckon with in the digital media space. I like MP3, but all things considered I can't honestly say I'm still as attached to RealPlayer.

Of course, with or without Microsoft's challenge, everyone knows there's life beyond MP3. Recording companies will have to grapple with online music strategies and consumers might have to be weaned from their taste for freebies, but the undeniable thing is that the Internet has changed the face of music and other media. On the standards side, MPEG-4 from the Moving Pictures Experts Group, hopes to put a structure to this outpouring of creativity—both in terms of music and software.

In the meantime, let's enjoy the digital audio revolution. Even as we amuse ourselves guessing just how much Bill Gates paid Madonna to license "Ray of Light" for the Windows XP blitz.

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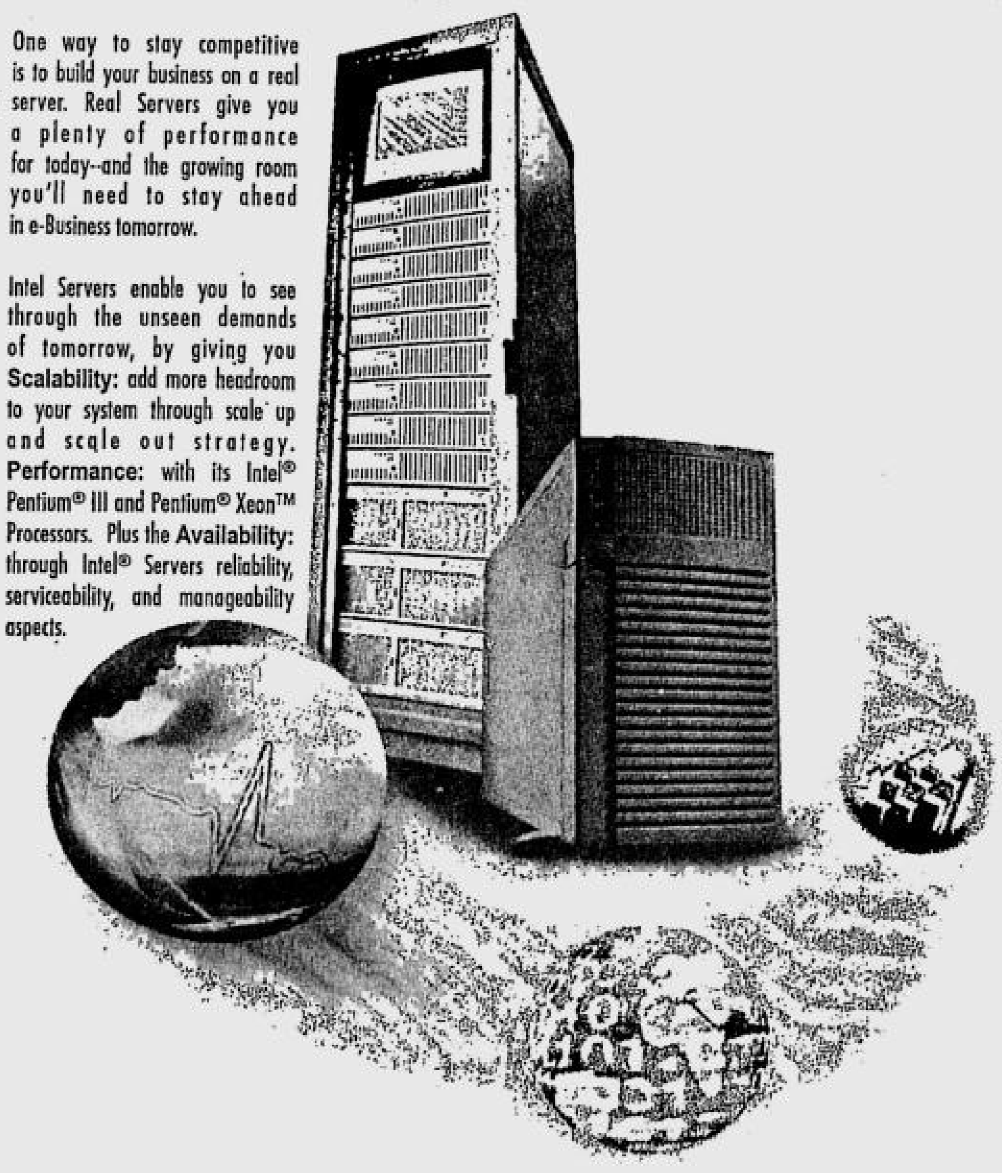

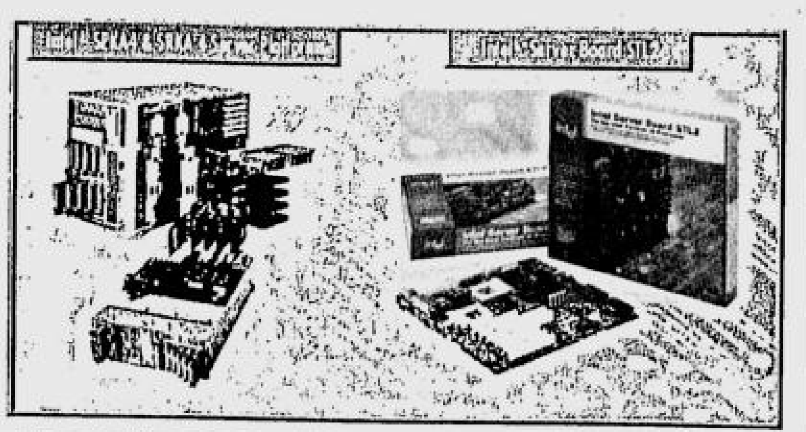

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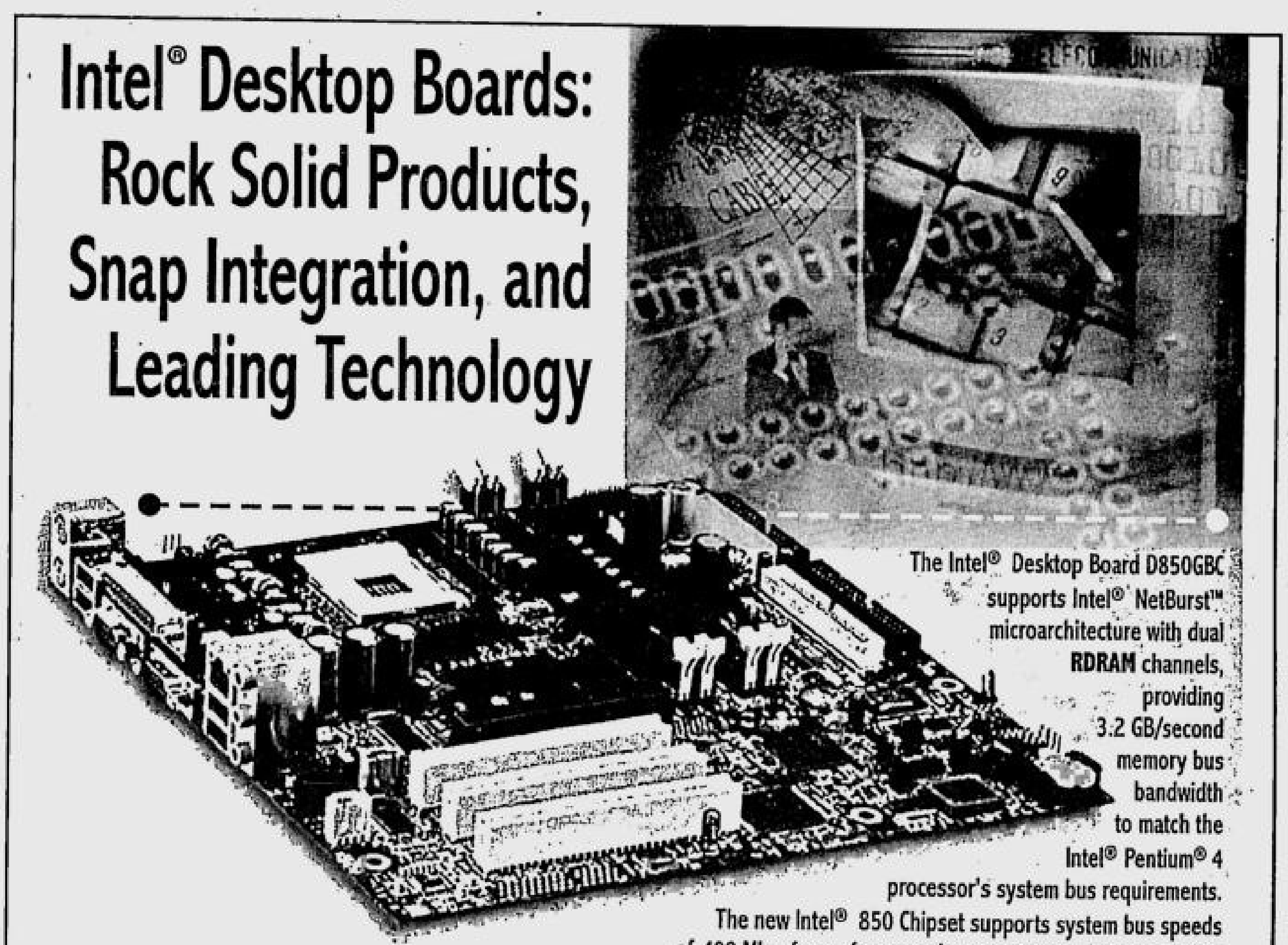

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Socket	PGA423	mPGA478	mPGA478
Memory	RDRAM	RDRAM	RDRAM
Max. Memory	2GB	2GB	2GB
Audio/LAN/CNR Options	A/L or CNR	A/L or A/CNR	A/L, A/CNR or USB2.0
Video	AGP4X	AGP4X	AGP4X
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Report says Egyptian behind Bin Laden sites

CAIRO—Egyptian Islamist Yasser al-Serri, arrested in London last week, set up Internet sites to ensure continuous direct links between presumed terrorist Osama bin Laden and his associates everywhere, an Egyptian daily said Friday, quoting police sources here.

Serri "set up several Internet sites via which members of Bin Laden's al-Qaida organization were in contact with their leaders," the paper quoted its sources as saying.

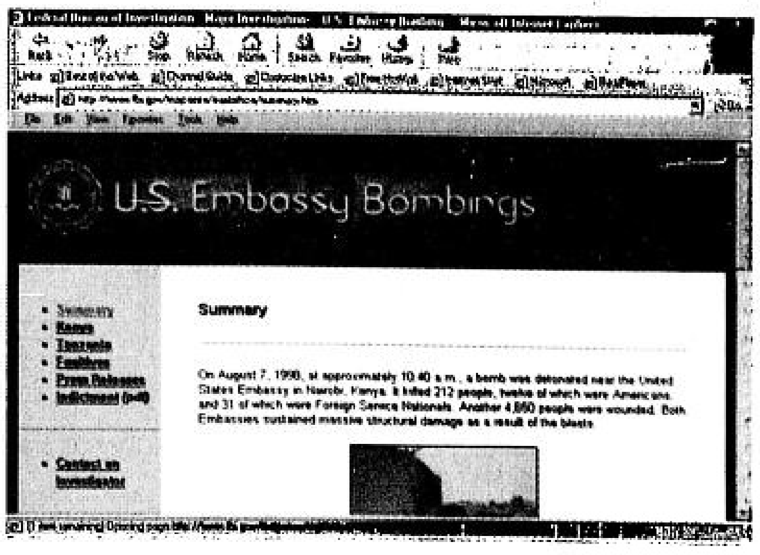
The No. 1 suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States "Bin Laden, (his right-hand man Ayman) al-Zawahri and the leaders of al-Qaida used the sites to run the organization at global level, counting on the difficulty of tracing their contacts on the Internet and using secret codes," the sources said.

The Egyptian Islamist also used an Internet site "to call for demonstrations against Egypt, its government and politicians," they added.

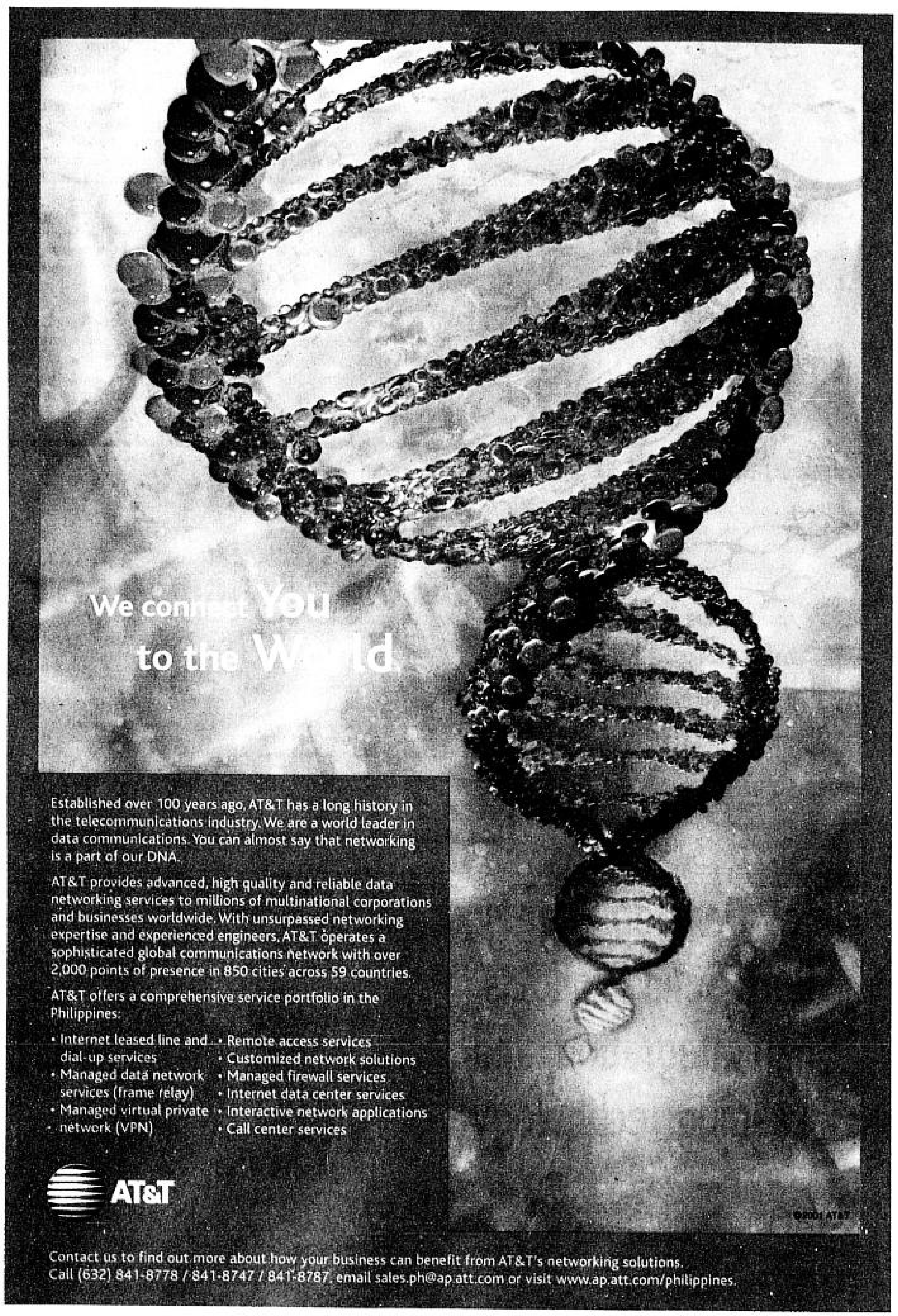
Serri was born in 1962 in the Suez governorate of eastern Egypt and joined the Egyptian al-Jihad extremist movement in 1988, after meeting al-Zawahri in Yemen. Serri was in Yemen on a teaching post, Al-Akhbar said, adding that he also met Bin Laden.

Serri is one of the most wanted Islamists in Egypt for involvement in a number of alleged terrorist activities. He has been condemned in absentia in Egypt to sentences ranging from 15 years in jail to the death penalty, in a number of trials.

After fleeing to London eight years ago, he was sentenced to death in Egypt for his alleged part in the 1994 attempted assassination of the then Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki. *AFP*



THE FEDERAL Bureau of Investigation has produced two websites where information about Osama bin Laden is available. Data about Bin Laden's involvement in the 1998 bombing of the US embassies in Tanzania and Kenya can be found at http://www.fbi.gov/majcases/eastafrica/summary.htm. The US indictment against bin Laden can be found at http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/nyfo/pressrels/1998/11041998.htm.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A joystick on your cell phone?

CELLULAR phones which function also as personal digital assistants (PDAs) and Internet browsers are no longer a novelty. These days, cellular phone manufacturers are driven to come up with all-in-one phones so users no longer have to carry too many gadgets.

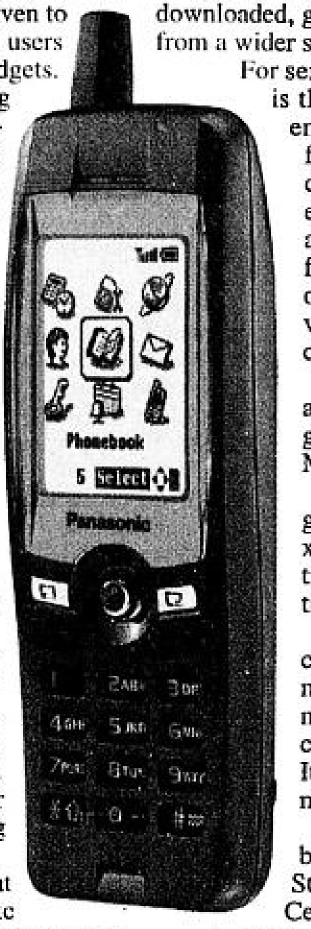
However, in the process of putting everything in one single handset, cellular phone manufacturers had to leave out a lot of essentials that we have become accustomed to using, like a graphical user interface (GUI) or a joystick, for example.

Fortunately, Panasonic Mobile Phones has come up with a phone model that does not only have a joystick and GUI but other useful features as well.

The GUI and 5-directional joystick navigation allows the user to rapidly move around a webpage. It also has an extra-large screen with 160-character and 10-line display. This means that the user can view a whole text message without having to scroll down.

The Panasonic GD95 phone also has an internal modem for quick access to the user's corporate server or the Internet via a laptop, a calendar, scheduler, voice memo and reminder. With these features alone, the user can already seriously think of getting rid of his or her PDA.

For cellular phone users who want unique ringing tones, the Panasonic GD95 offers the best tones available on the market. The GD95 has polyphonic ring tones—made up of three layered tones that bring you even closer to the real sound of your favorite tunes.



What's even better is that these can be downloaded, giving the user freedom to choose from a wider selection of ringing sounds.

For serious texters and e-mailers there is the T9 text input to simplify the entering of messages and support for SMTP/POP3 e-mail accounts, allowing users to access e-mail anytime, anywhere. In addition, the desktop hands-free feature enables the user to carry on a conversation while still viewing e-mail, SMS or WAP content.

But if it's entertainment you're after there is also a choice of two games to play—15 Puzzle and Mogular.

The GD95 weighs a mere 84 grams and has a dimension of 25.6 x 45.6 x 14.4 mm. It has a talk time of 400 minutes and a standby time of up to 150 hours.

The phone also has a Voice Recall function, a phonebook memory capable of more than 200 numbers, three backlight display colors and 30 wallpaper graphics. It comes in two colors: silver and metallic black.

The Panasonic GD95 will soon be made available in all Wireless Stores in SM branches in Manila, Cebu, Bacoor, Megamall, Centerpoint, Southmall and Sucat, and in Greenbelt and other cell phone stores nationwide.

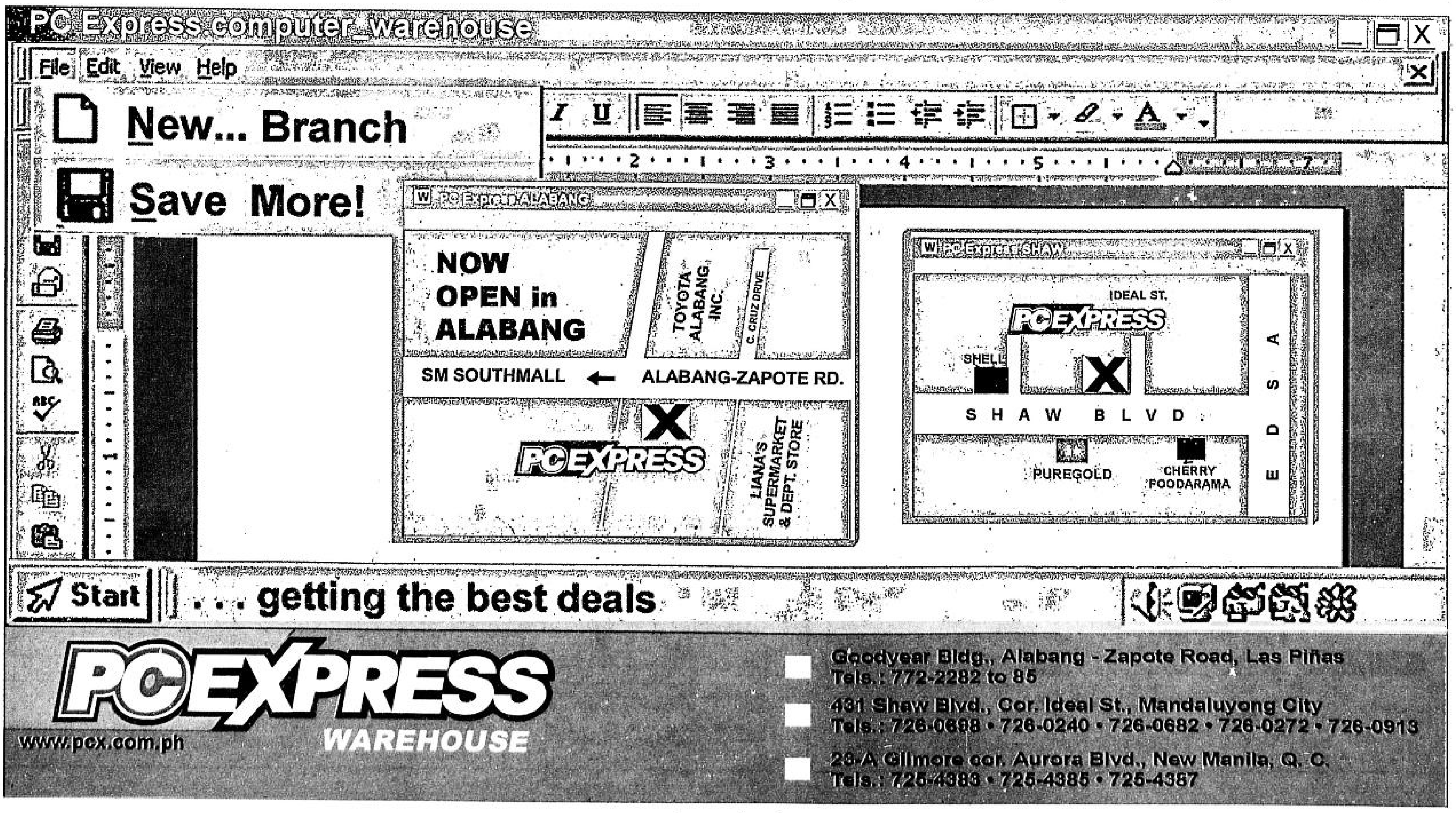
Viisage, Unisys team up for face recognition

VIISAGE Technology Inc. and Unisys Corp. have formed a global strategic alliance to enhance personal identification solutions with cutting-edge facial recognition technology.

Under this agreement, Unisys can integrate Viisage's face recognition image capture system and other face recognition technologies with its solutions for government, transportation, financial services and other markets. The goal is to provide end-to-end solutions and thereby expand client options for building accurate and reliable identification capabilities into their operations for better security.

This alliance brings together complementary technologies and services. Viisage has developed leadership face recognition applications for a number of corrections, social services and law enforcement customers.

Unisys is a leading systems integrator with extensive experience deploying biometric and personal identification solutions globally since 1994 for national ID cards, government and military access, voter registration, social security identification and driver's licenses. Viisage provides a full family of face recognition products. It has a powerful and scalable image retrieval and analysis database product used to combat identity fraud. It is implemented in the world's largest face recognition system with more than eight million enrolled images.



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Public feast, private famine for Asian credit

TOKYO—Government borrowing across most of Asia is as strong as private-sector credit growth is weak, boding ill for the region's public finances and a lasting recovery in its economic fortunes.

Although economists applaud the pump priming as a sensible response to one of the steepest export downturns on record, they say it is no substitute for a revival in lending to companies, especially as the build-up in public-sector debt is reaching worrying proportions, particularly in Southeast Asia.

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri highlighted the risks on Thursday with a warning that Jakarta's ability to repay its huge debt burden of some $140 billion was reaching danger levels.

Graham Parry, an economist with Lehman Brothers in Tokyo, described Indonesia's fiscal position as dire and said its meetings next week with foreign donors and the Paris Club of creditor nations were crucial to averting potential disaster.

"When you do look at the figures, it's hard to see how it's all going to add up next year. They really do have to cut back spending given that they can't seem to get their act together on the privatization front," Parry told Reuters.

Jakarta's fiscal position is the most precarious, but the Philippines also has little, if any, scope left to relax fiscal policy, according to Parry and other economists.

Overall, Lehman estimates that Asia's public debt has risen from just over 10 percent of gross domestic product in 1996 to around 40 percent now.

The ratio is still low compared with the average of 70 percent among the 30 industrial-country members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

But annual budget deficits are growing and some countries such as Thailand and the Philippines have yet to finish the costly task of cleaning up banking systems battered by Asia's 1997 financial crisis.

"Although some expansion in the budget deficit is appropriate from a cyclical perspective, both governments need to devise and communicate a credible plan for solving their respective financial sector problems and lifting growth if they are to avoid downgrades in their credit ratings," Parry said in a report.

Risk aversion

An uncharitable view is that governments only have themselves to blame for their economic mess: critics say they should have used the export-led boom years of 1999 and 2000 to accelerate corporate and financial reforms and tidy up once and for all, the problems left by the 1997 crisis.

Instead, the process of purging bad bank loans, implementing legal reforms to give creditors more protection, and reducing excessive corporate debt and capacity is far from complete.

As a result, banks are wary of lending except to the most creditworthy borrowers either because they are constrained by weak balance sheets or they fear losing their money.

Though flush with cash, banks have ploughed money instead into government bonds—the so-called Asian Bid. The result has been a powerful rally in Asian bonds but the hobbling of the monetary transmission mechanism, stifling investment and growth.

Thus, while base and broad money has been growing around 10 percent, lending to the corporate sector has generally remained in negative territory, particularly in Thailand, Korea and Taiwan, according to economists at Goldman Sachs.

At the same time, reflecting the bond purchases, the public sector has remained the main driver of domestic credit growth in most countries. One exception is Malaysia, while bank lending in Korea to households—but not to corporations—is surging.

"We continue to hold the view that a more generally favorable precondition to a sustained recovery in both real economic activity and asset prices is a rebound in private sector credit, not base or broad money growth. We fail to detect any sign of this recovery taking hold," Goldman said in a report.

The risk aversion seems to be shared by foreign banks.

Data released by the Bank for International Settlements on Monday showed Asia accounting for more than half of the $45-billion drop in lending by international banks to emerging markets in the first half of the year.

Gene Frieda at consultants Forecast in Singapore said this trend toward credit rationing, underscoring the penalties for those needing new financing, was unlikely to be reversed until the second half of next year.

"It's really going to be the speed with which you see an improvement in the United States that determines a willingness to start lending again to emerging markets," he said.

Strikingly, though, the BIS survey showed that, within the shrinking pie, foreign banks—like their domestic counterparts—were happy to lend more to Asian governments. Indeed, Asia is the only region in which public-sector borrowing from BIS banks is on the rise, Frieda noted.

"This reflects a combination both of risk aversion in favor of higher credit quality—from corporate to sovereign—as well as an increasing recourse to fiscal spending within Asia to pump-prime economies," he said.

Reuters

Microsoft is modern-day corporate titan

SAN FRANCISCO—Microsoft, which has become the world's largest software firm and a leading corporation by dominating the market for operating systems for personal computers, is now shifting its focus to the Internet.

Success for the Redmond, Washington-based company can be traced through a history of shrewd, perfectly timed exploitations of the innovations of others, and, later, some flexing of its corporate muscle and the ability to get others to see things its way.

Microsoft was born in 1975, when Harvard dropout Bill Gates and Seattle computer buddy Paul Allen coined the word Microsoft for their new company—by combining the words "microcomputer" and "software."

Microsoft was created to market the duo's attempts to manipulate Basic, a computer language already in use by large mainframe computers. Gates and Allen were trying to make Basic run on small computers then used by hobbyists when, in 1980, IBM asked the pair to create a software operating system for their new desktop computers.

Unable to meet IBM's deadlines with their own code, the Microsoft co-founders purchased a rival operating system from a competitor (failing to tell the rivals about IBM's interest) for $50,000.

An operating system, or OS, is the base software a computer uses to run other programs. In an important milestone for Microsoft, IBM allowed the company to keep the licensing rights to the software, which enabled Gates and Allen to again and again charge IBM and later computer makers for the right to install its code on their machines.

By the mid-1980s, Microsoft's OS was the dominant software running on emerging world of computers. In 1990, Microsoft released its Windows OS, which let users control their machines by moving computer screen icons with a mouse. Again, Windows was the innovation of others: in this case, Xerox researchers, who had first come up with the icon system.

In 1993, the company released Windows NT, which brought networking to the desktop computers, a development first pioneered by Novell's NetWare.

In 1996, Gates changed his company's direction to challenge the dominance of Netscape, which then was ruling the World Wide Web with its Navigator browsing software which turned the Internet into a colorful, interactive medium.

That yank on the corporate tiller put Microsoft on a collision course with US government anti-trust law enforcers and a federal judge, who say that Microsoft engaged in predatory pricing, forced illegal contracts on vendors and other corporate bullying tactics to eventually drive Netscape into the graveyard already filled with the remains of other rivals.

Despite those allegations and court decisions, Microsoft boldly launched its Windows XP operating system this month. XP includes capabilities, such as photo manipulation, and music recording and playback abilities, that compete with rivals such as RealNetworks. Computer makers, which have seen their first downturn in purchases this year, are hoping Microsoft's dominance will spur users to buy newer machines to take advantage of XP's news features. Those features, the company's critics say, further the company's monopoly hold on the world's technology markets.

Microsoft has made Gates the world's richest man, with a net worth estimated by Forbes magazine of $58.7 billion.

The company earned a profit for its most recent fiscal year of $9.4 billion on revenues of $23 billion. It has some 40,000 employees around the world. Its operating software is found on nine out of every 10 computers being used in the world.

AFP

NEC sending workers home

TOKYO—Electronics maker NEC Corp. is asking 6,600 workers at its semiconductor plants in Japan to stay home for one to three days a month in November and December as demand drops sharply for the products.

The decision affecting eight plants comes on top of 9,000 clerical workers at NEC's electronics device section who were ordered to take an extra day off per month for the rest of the year.

On Thursday, 800 workers were told to stay home at a semiconductor plant in central Japan that stopped running temporarily to scale down production.

All the workers will receive 80 percent of their usual pay, an NEC spokesperson said Friday on condition of anonymity.

Last month, NEC temporarily shut some lines at a semiconductor plant in southwestern Japan for six days affecting 1,000 workers.

NEC and other Japanese electronics makers are losing money because of the global electronics slump. NEC posted a loss of 29.8 billion yen ($245 million) for the first fiscal half ended in September.

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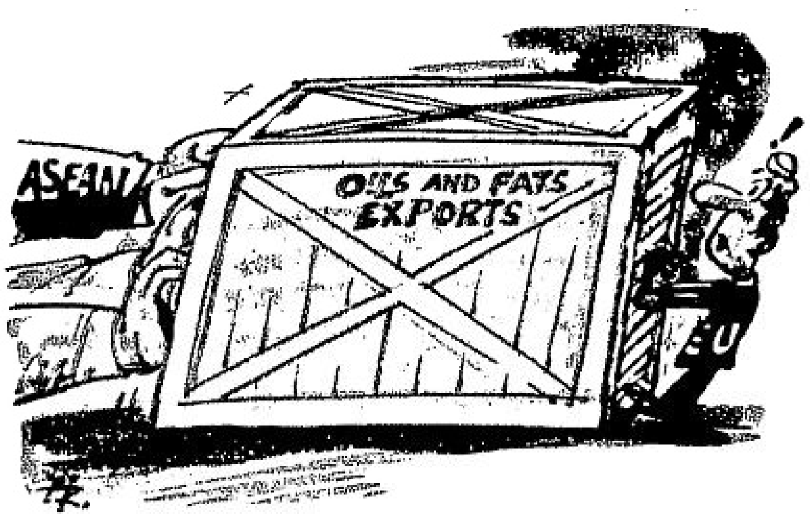
Asean to block EU moves to cut edible oil imports

THE PHILIPPINES and the other Asean member-countries will exert their political and trade influence in the international community to block efforts by the European Union to curb its importation of Southeast Asia's vegetable oils and fats.

This, according to Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, was the consensus reached by the agriculture ministers of Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Indonesia and Myanmar during the 23rd meeting of Asean Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Amaf) held recently in Medan, Indonesia.

Montemayor said the groups had tasked Indonesian Agriculture Minister Bungaran Saragih, chair of the Amaf meeting, to formally request the European Commission to rescind a controversial directive, which if carried out, will severely cut Asean's oils and fats exports to Europe.

The issues stemmed from a European Community Council directive (95/3/EC) which provided that edible oils and fats—such as cooking oil, refined palm oil and all other food grade oils and fats sold in bulk—should be transported in dedicated tanks and vessels. The requirement was said to be a hygienic measure against possible food contamination.



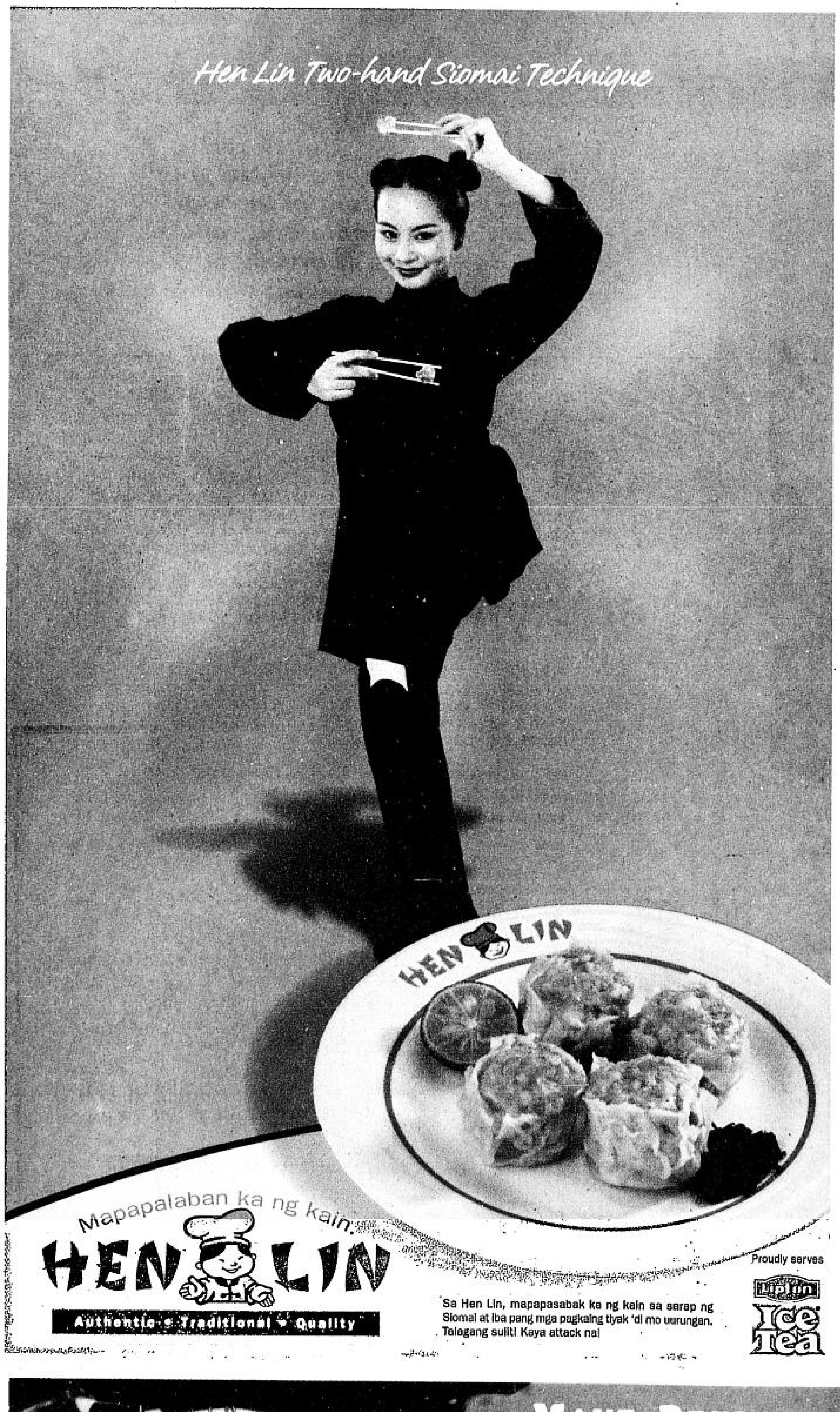
The directive contained in a draft code of hygienic practice for the transport of food in bulk and semi-packaged food, which Europe sponsored and submitted to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for approval, but which was shelved.

In a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2001, the CAC instead adopted the Code of Hygienic Practice for the Transport of Foodstuff in Bulk and Semi-Packed Foodstuff. This clarified that the EC-supported draft code was not applicable and that dedicated transport was not the norm in the transport of edible fats and oils.

Despite the setback, Europe continued to lobby before various international fora, including the Codex, to have its controversial directive adopted insisting that the move was a hygienic measure against possible food contamination.

Edible oils and fats exporters are expected to face difficulties in looking for dedicated tanks and vessels, and incur higher freight charges. These, according to Montemayor, will make the products from the Asean more expensive and less competitive in the world market.

Under the current practice, edible oils and fats are loaded in specific compartments of vessels whose prior load need not be edible oils and fats as long as they are internationally recognized as acceptable prior cargoes.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Capasco taps partners for ₱2-B NSC rehab plan

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CATHAY Pacific Steel Co. has tapped USX Engineers & Consultants Inc. and China Steel Corp. for the local steel firm's proposed P2-billion rehabilitation plan for the shuttered National Steel Corp. facility in Iligan City.

Capasco is one of the three investors that submitted lease-rehabilitate-operate offers to the Department of Trade and Industry-led evaluation committee reviewing the lease offers. The others are Allengoal Steel Fabrication Trading Co. and Voest Alpine.

Based on Capasco's offer, USX and China Steel are expected to support Capasco in implementing its five-year program for NSC which includes a backward integration plan to sharpen the steel giant's competitive edge against imports.

Capasco did not state how much it was willing to lease the NSC facilities although it committed to spend up to P2 billion for the company's rehabilitation. It also did not put up a cash deposit or performance bond.

The alliance with the American and Taiwan entities is expected to boost Capasco's bid to take over the country's biggest steel mill which has been closed for nearly two years due to deep financial troubles.

Capasco proposed to resume the operations of NSC's five-stand mill, tinning line and billet shop within the next three to six months. The hot mill is expected to take up to two years to resume operations. Capasco also proposed to set up an iron steel mill as part of a backward integration plan to lower costs and boost the firm's value added.

These plans, however, assumed that the lease agreement would be honored by NSC's owners; that the government rationalize duties on steel industries and imposed dumping duty on imports; that NSC appoint a financial control, and the facilities would be transferred peacefully.

In contrast, Capasco's main rival to the NSC deal, Allengoal, will tie up with Hatch Associates in its offer to lease the facilities for two years at P20.5 million per month plus 40 percent of the steel company's net profit. Allengoal will submit a cash deposit of P25 million for equipment maintenance and performance bond of P75 million to cover any damage to the equipment. It expects to start operations within six months. It stressed that its offer did not preclude it from pursuing its case with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the implementation of its lease agreement signed with NSC majority owner, Hottick-Renong, last year.

Voest Alpine did not submit a lease-rehabilitate-operate proposal but instead offered to run NSC in partnership with NSC. Voest Alpine proposed to spend EURO1.176 million for the first-phase of the rehabilitation of NSC's facilities. Voest Alpine offered to spend another EURO20.58 million to improve NSC's operations by broadening its product range and systemizing production and quality.

The lease offers for NSC turned out to be a diverse lot because the DTI decided to implement liberally the terms of reference of the hunt for an interim investor.

BSP preparing new rules on banks' foreclosed assets

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has dropped its plan to impose a provision on foreclosed assets. It instead decided to merely require banks to subject their real and other properties owned or acquired (Ropoa) worth P5 million and above to an accurate mark-to-market valuation.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said that starting January next year, the central bank would require banks to undertake a mark-to-market valuation of all substantial assets they foreclosed.

If the value of these assets dropped, the banks would have to book the decline as losses and that they have to set aside additional funds for provision, he explained.

Reyes said that a new circular to govern the new policy would be released in the coming weeks.

The BSP had toyed with the idea of imposing a 10 percentage point yearly incremental provisioning for foreclosed assets that banks would opt to keep.

However, the policy making Monetary Board had decided against it and, instead, opted for the mark-to-market valuation requirement.

"It's not the right time to require the banks to increase their provisioning. The board thinks that marking to market will serve the same purpose which is to accurately reflect the value of the assets," said Reyes.

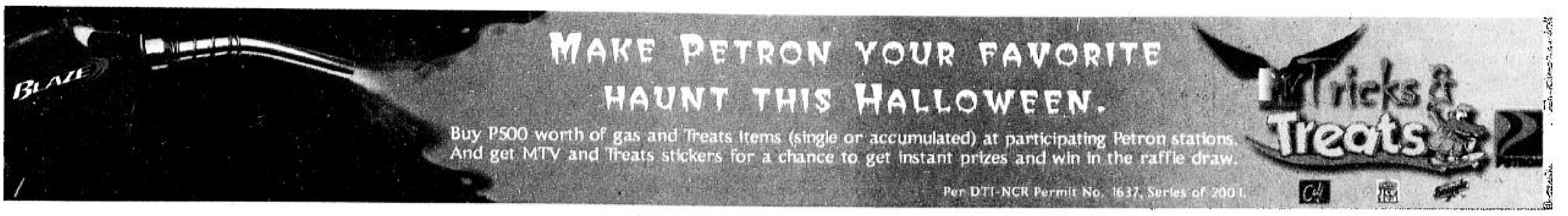
The Monetary Board felt that with the declining real estate prices, a good portion of the foreclosed assets or Ropoa might be over-valued, he said.

As of the third quarter, the Ropoa held by the commercial banking system increased by 24 percent to P140.5 billion from P113.34 billion a year ago. It was also 4.4 percent higher than the P134.62 billion registered in the previous quarter.

"These policies should push banks to consider tapping asset management companies to get rid of their bad loans," said Reyes. The appraisal of the assets should be done by an independent third party, he noted.

Current rules allow banks to keep non-performing assets for five years and only on the sixth year will these assets carry a 10-percent provisioning.

Banks are required to set aside provisions to cover losses arising from non-performing loans and assets.



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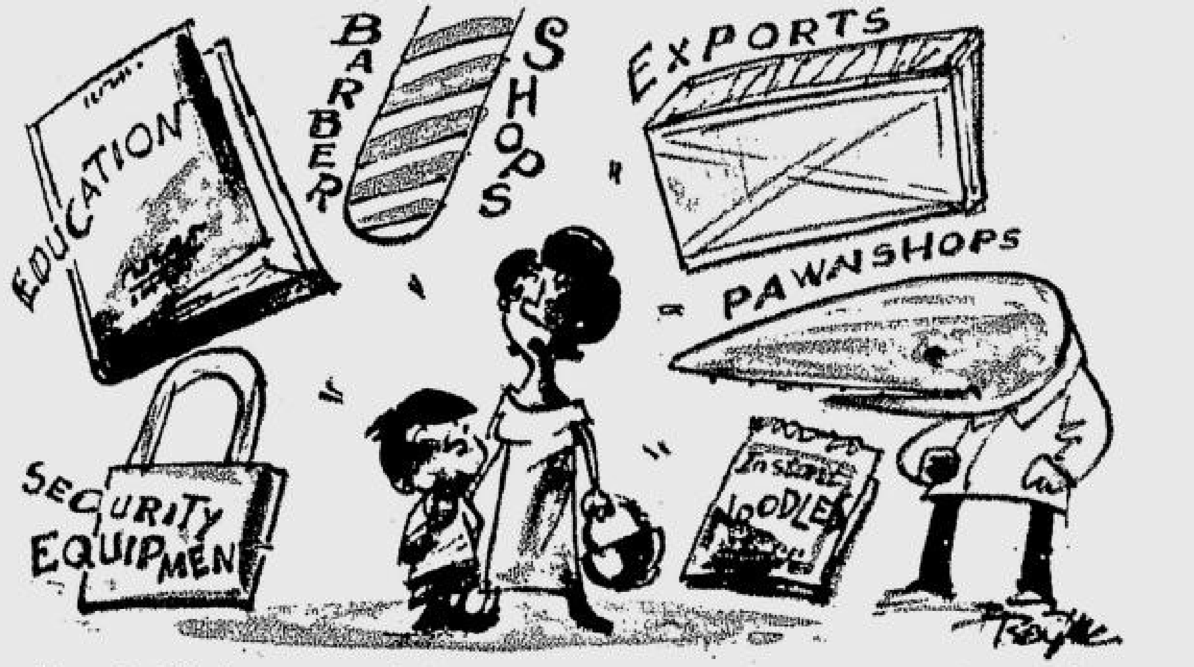
In a down economy, to get big, go small

By Dennis M. Arroyo



THE END of 2001 casts a pall on the economy. The global tech-bubble has burst, Sept. 11 has terrorized our main foreign market, and our exports have taken a beating. These all hit Philippine business hard.

The general mood is to postpone large investments and to spend less. Considering the macro-economic trends, the following industries will likely suffer the most:

- Big-ticket commerce like real estate and construction, advertising, cars and consumer durables;
- Dollar-dependent industries like foreign travel and imports;
- Enterprises seen as luxuries like golf, country clubs, jewelry, art collection;
- Industries that depend on the previous three, like airlines.

Steady demand

Not all is bleak, however. The following industries should display steady demand or will be less affected by the downturn.

Elementary and high school education will proceed on an even keel. The Filipino parent will sacrifice virtually anything but this basic plank for their kids' future. But expect more kids to transfer to public schools.

There will be gainers and losers canceling each other out in legal services. On the one hand, people may want to settle out of court and avoid heavy bills. On the other, the slump may push firms to bankruptcy, provoking litigation. Think also of the defaults on mortgages.

Water utility companies and those that sell cheap bottled water will be less affected, for water is a most basic need. The same holds for plumbing and waste disposal. One can't wait for the downturn to pass before attending to sanitation.

And yes, funeral parlors will not see any slack in demand for the inevitable.

On a lighter vein, barbershops will manage well as hair continues to grow.

Men can't invoke the economic slump to justify a shaggy appearance. Note that there will probably be less demand for beauty parlors. Women don't cut their hair as frequently as men do, and they consider it in part as a treat for themselves.

Think of the 'masa' market

Just getting by is not enough. How then can a firm thrive in this dampened economy? Look at the demographics.

To get big, go small, counsels Dr. Ned Roberto, marketing professor at the Asian Institute of Management. "The 'small' *bakya* consumer is the big market where it makes more marketing sense to source a consumer brand's growth," says Roberto.

This stress on the *masa* segment makes sense if one considers the population data. The poor or the class DE market is three times that of the middle class C and 18 times the size of the rich class AB.

"In and out of hard times, the *bakya* market segment continues to spend," says Roberto. "And they spend more if not much more than the midscale and upscale segments."

For example, the spending patterns on consumer durables reveal the *masa* crowd's priorities. In the end-1999 Basic survey, the DE consumers from Metro Manila bought according to the following percentages: 85 percent for colored TV sets, 61 percent for refrigerators and 58 percent for beds.

The fact that a sizeable chunk of the population lacks a refrigerator implies some trends for the marketer. One is that single packets or "tingi" will continue to be popular for that segment. Another is that the *masa* crowd will turn to the stores for items needing cold storage.

Booming in the harsh season

The key to thriving in this climate is to look at the needs of the poor, the "masa" market. Then offer cheaper substitutes.

As reported in my previous article, instant noodles at P 5 a pack are a hit. They offer a very cheap meal for the poor and a filling snack for the comfortable classes.

Factory outlets and warehouse stores that give big discounts will be more in vogue. In general, the public will scout for retailers that

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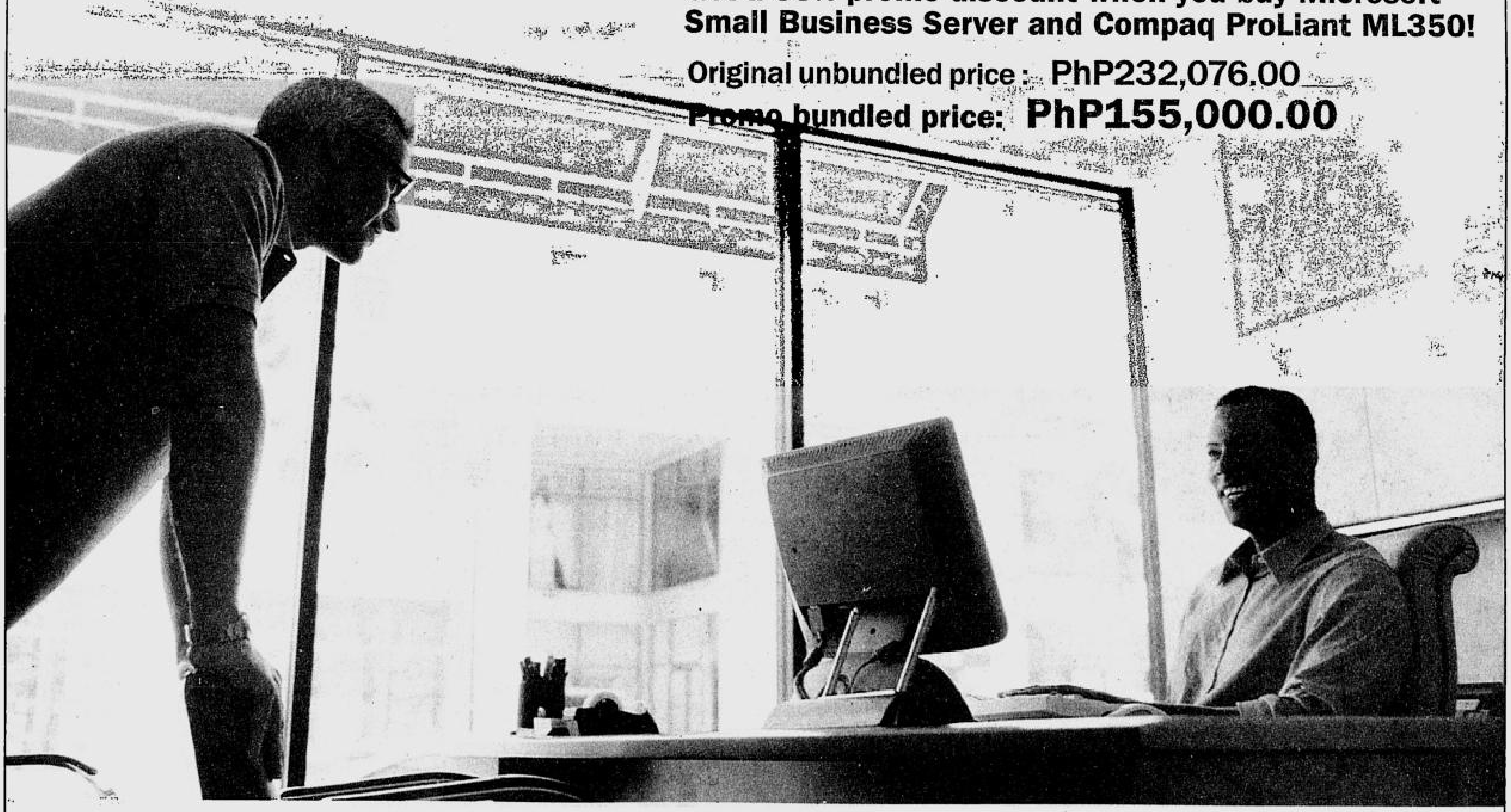

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CEO believes in ‘bottom-up’ management

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MANAGEMENT
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DUTCH national Severino P. Hermans explains to his staff that the organizational chart at ING Life Philippines and Aetna Health is shaped like an inverted pyramid—with the agents on top and him at the bottom.

Quite different from most, if not all, organizational charts that has the chair or the chief executive officer at the top.

He says he purposely came up with the unconventional table of organization because he firmly believes that the agents and the employees would spell success for the company, with him at their service.

"The business is out there, the agents and the employees are the ones who bring in the business. My task and the management's task is to help our agents. I believe this is my role," Hermans tells the INQUIRER.

This is not to say, however, that he is laid back in his approach to management. It is just that he believes in a more democratic and "friendlier" approach to getting the staff to work and to meet objectives set at the start of the year.

"My first job when I came here more than two years ago was to grow the business, and to grow it fast, I cannot be a dictator. I have to get people to help me to do that," he explains.

From a roster of about 50 agents, ING Life now has a network of over 300 agents which he says, he was able to do because he was able to successfully delegate responsibilities—not tasks—to his subordinates.

"I believe that if people feel responsible then they will act responsible. It is borne from a process of delegation of responsibilities," he says.

There was a time for instance when one of his managers would go to his office at least three times a day to get his advice or opinion on what he should do. What he did was to encourage the managers to say their piece, give their recommendation and propose what they think is the best solution to the problem.

"About nine out of 10 times I would agree with what they propose and it helps build their confidence to make a decision. It is part of delegating. I tell them, don't come to me with a complaint or a problem, I tell them to tell me how they think we can improve the situation," Hermans says.

Hermans came in as president and CEO of ING Life Philippines in April of 1999 after a stint with ING in Asia and Australia. He has worked with the ING group for virtually his entire professional career, after being hired when he worked with ING on a short-term project while still in school.

He graduated with a business economics degree from the University of Amsterdam. He specialized in marketing and marketing research and management accounting. He later got a master's degree in marketing from the Tilburg Institute of Advanced Studies sponsored by ING.

Hermans says it helped that he first came from Hong Kong, as it gave him an idea of what the Asian mentality was.

Hermans says he can compare the Philippines with the Netherlands where religion has a very strong effect or influence on the way people think. And just like in the Netherlands, particularly in the southern, Catholic part, business is based largely on good relationships.

"This made it easier for me to adjust but I still believe that people should be approached as individuals. It is difficult to generalize although it must be done sometimes to make quick decisions," he says.

Hermans says he is one person who is not afraid to make quick decisions, saying that he must take that role to break an impasse or to make sure that ING Life can quickly capitalize on an opportunity in the market.

"We can be democratic all the way because we will be bogged down. What is important is that I am able to make clear that this is what the company wants and this is what you should do to help the company achieve that goal," he says.

HERMANS

In a down economy, to get big, go small

(From page C1)

maintain the lowest prices.

Fast-food joints catering to the lower middle class should thrive as families shift their Sunday treats to the cheaper alternatives.

Hard times sharpen the need for loans. But banks are now more cautious about lending. That is the climate conducive to the growth of alternative credit sources like pawnshops.

Spending for gas and auto maintenance is a major cost sink. More people will be shifting to the MRT, the LRT and the buses.

Cheaper substitutes

Industries linked with repair will thrive, for people are less willing now to buy new units. They would rather tune up their existing appliances. So that means more business for auto mechanics, appliance repair shops, even the street corner shoe and watch repair stalls.

Micro-enterprises dominate the market for auto shops, but they only provide tune-ups and body repair. And they could be dreadfully slow. They should upgrade quality.

The slump also creates a market for secondhand consumer durables. There is hope in stores that sell used furniture, appliances, clothes, books and toys.

Leasing is a way to get updated machines without busting the budget. In these hard times it is the low-cost alternative to heavy capital purchases. One can lease just about everything: from software to medical tools to construction equipment.

It works even on the micro-setting. Filipino college students don't have to own computers. Campus entrepreneurs lease them and rent them out to students, charging them by the hour.

Leasing a machine offers advantages over borrowing money from the bank to buy the machine. Banks require collateral, while leasing does not. Banks demand financial statements, while leasing companies do not.

There is also a need to substitute for expensive hospital care.

Hence a downturn is good news for preventive maintenance, inexpensive nursing homes and training in home care.

Drugstores that focus on cheap generic medicines should thrive. The government is promoting the importation of medicines from India, which cost about half the price of the regular products.

Dropping incomes, or worse, the lay-off of the main breadwinner requires the spouse to work more. The children need to be cared for while mommy is away at the office. That creates more demand for day-care centers.

More people will be spending on small enterprise education. Having one's own enterprise is the most logical recourse for a tightening job market.

Would you believe that greeting card companies actually thrive in recessions? The slump leaves you with less cash to buy gifts during Christmas and birthdays. As such, a greeting card makes for an inexpensive substitute.

Video rental stores may get ahead as a cheaper substitute to bringing the family to a movie at the mall. However, video shops are likely suffering from much CD-ROM piracy.

Sadly, there may be more demand for locks and other security equipment. Assume that crime will worsen as unemployment swells.

Exporters

The current exchange rate at P52 per US dollar is much more attractive for exporters than the old P46. That's an incentive for businessmen to go into exports. Unfortunately, the entire global economy is down, so the export market has contracted.

The proper response to this is to position your export product as the cheaper alternative in the market. After all, the exchange rate makes Philippine exports even cheaper. The cost-cutting American, Japanese or German may then look into the Philippine alternative.

For the same reason, the market becomes more lucrative for software programmers, who e-mail their output abroad. Philippine-written software should be marketed as the bargain for quality.

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The GSIS scandals and moves to amend its charter

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Cesar N. Sarino

IT WOULD be very unfortunate if, because of the recent scandals in the GSIS, the institution's charter would now be amended.

I find it ironic that the GSIS Act of 1996, which amended the original charter to make it more responsive to the needs of the times and usher in the SSS' renaissance in the new millennium, is now being blamed for its plummeting credibility and integrity.

The GSIS continues to suffer from a damaged culture resulting from almost 15 years of unbridled and unchecked corruption during the martial law years. This is manifested in the culture and attitude of its bureaucracy.

Although (or perhaps) it is a tired bureaucracy (the average employee age in 1996 was 56 years old), it has one of the most militant unions whose routine demand for more benefits has been: What else can we get? *"Ano ang kasunod?"*

Efforts to transform the GSIS into a strong and dynamic institution were therefore focused on organizational development, as well as new policy initiatives, as follows:

- Reorganization of the GSIS;
- Updating and formalization of policies, procedures and guidelines (PPG) for all revenue generating departments;
- Instilling of financial professionalism and discipline;
- Provision for responsive policy parameters.

Reorganizing the GSIS

Under this component, three interrelated programs were implemented.

An early retirement program was developed to cut down the size of the employee force by almost one-half, while infusing new and fresh technically oriented staff into the organization. This also involved the creation of new positions responsive to the new organizational thrusts with their corresponding job descriptions and competitive (not bloated) salary scales based on industry surveys.

A restructuring of the institution was effected to make it client-oriented, emphasizing benefits and service delivery, and to enable it to operate like an authentic investment bank so it could optimize investment returns and be able to increase members' benefits as well as enhance the SSS' long term viability.

A continuing year-round training program was operationalized for all levels of employees nationwide—from value formation and supervisory management, to various technical skills.

In fact, a five-year human development program was developed, including an in-house MBA program conducted by Ateneo Graduate School of Business, exclusive to GSIS employees.

Updating policies

To ensure that policies and objectives were clear and roles and responsibilities properly delineated, to include paper flow, the PPGs for all the revenue generating departments were updated, formalized and approved by the board of trustees.

These PPGs are useful operational tools for all involved personnel, especially for the government bureaucracy that is traditionally a stickler for scope of responsibility and approving authority. The PPGs were meant to improve work efficiency by cutting down the number of steps and personnel involved in processing/approving transactions.

To ensure that the funds of the SSS were treated strictly as trust funds, the following policies were implemented:

- The investment of funds by both the in-house investments department and two other private investment banks. This policy was intended to provide learning experiences for the Systems' investment staff as well as provide friendly and healthy competition to ensure that the returns on the investments were optimized while ensuring transparency in all transactions.
- The manualization of a portfolio management model by applying the Talima System (Total Asset Allocation and Portfolio Management). This manual was designed to define the imperatives dictated by the SSS' three missions (solvency, surplus and service) in the face of existing constraints, and present and expected realities. The model establishes the yield requirements and constraints to set the parameters for the portfolio strategy.

Responsive policies

The almost half-century old GSIS charter was reviewed and a new one formalized to expand the membership of the SSS to include contractual workers, expand benefits to include unemployment insurance and to increase monthly pension benefits to initially P9,000 a month as well as to give the system more autonomy and free itself from political and other influences

THE GSIS/ C4

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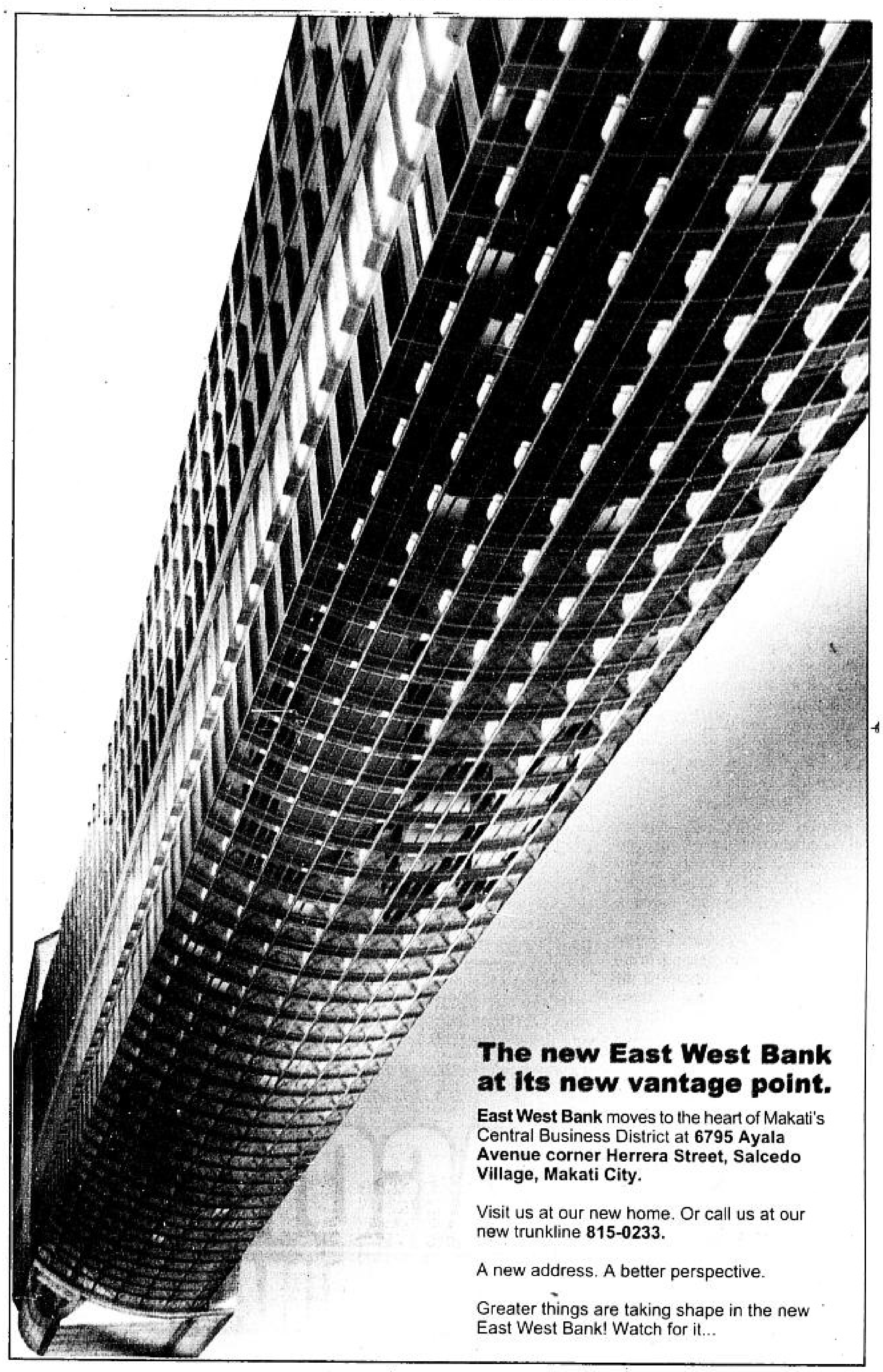

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MOVEMENTS

New chair and president for Shangri-La Plaza

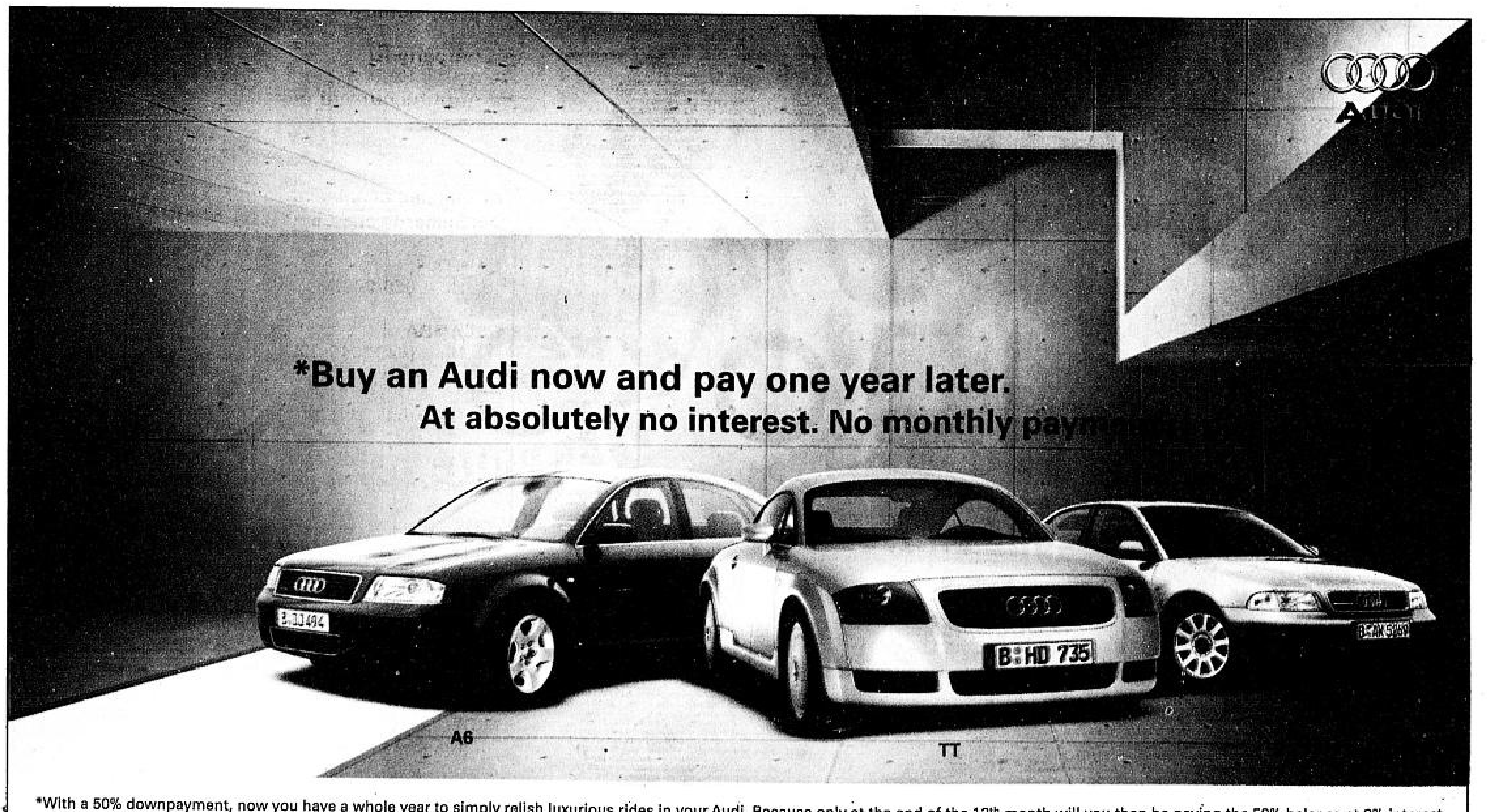
TOMAS C. Zita Jr. has been appointed new chair and president of Shangri-La Plaza Corp. Zita will oversee management and operations of the Shangri-La Plaza and will be at the forefront in the mall's commitment to being a socially responsible corporation.

Aside from being chair and president of Shangri-La, Zita will also be overseeing operations of the local Shangri-La Hotel chain.

He will likewise be involved in the various property development ventures of the Kuok Group as vice chair of Kuok Philippines Properties Inc. (KPPI), director of Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. (EPHI) and the Enterprise Center, and chair of KPPI Land Corp.

Zita has been with the Kuok Group since 1997 as executive director of Shangri-La Asia Ltd., chair of the Shangri-La group of hotels and resorts in the Philippines and Fiji, managing director of Shangri-La Hotel Public Co. in Thailand, president and director of Shangri-La Hotel Jakarta and Indonesia, as well as director of a number of companies of the Kuok Group in Hong Kong and China.

Prior to joining the Kuok Group, his sterling career includes stints in the commodities and insurance business in New York. He has an MBA from the University of New York and is an alumnus of De La Salle University and Ateneo de Manila.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A4 1.8 Turbo Tiptronic	2,104,500	1,052,250	1,052,250
A4 Turbo Tiptronic Avant	2,366,700	1,183,350	1,183,350
A6 2.4 Tiptronic	3,075,000	1,537,500	1,537,500
A6 2.4 Tiptronic Quattro	3,438,500	1,719,250	1,719,250
TT Coupe 1.8 180bhp	3,105,000	1,552,500	1,552,500
TT Coupe Quattro 1.8 225 bhp	3,427,000	1,713,500	1,713,500

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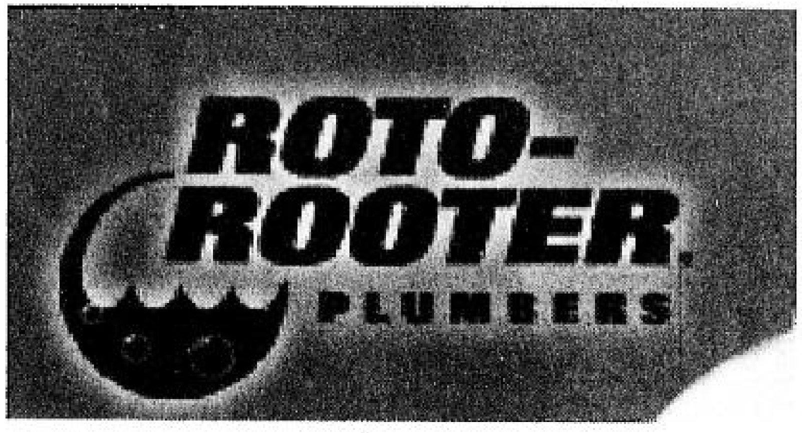
Service firms cash in on fast-paced lifestyle

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao



MARKETING guru Dr. Ned Roberto refers to today's men and women as suffering from "time famine." People hardly have any time left for mundane tasks as doing their chores because of the burden of fulfilling all the tasks at work and at home.

Samie Lim of the Philippine Franchise Association and chair of Francorp Philippines, tells the INQUIRER that the fast-paced lifestyle leaves a big room for entrepreneurs who want to get into the services industry.

He predicts that the services sector will post one of the biggest growth rates over the next few years as people get other people to do some of their work for them, including cleaning their houses. Many already outsource their laundry requirements.

The best thing about it, he adds, is that the sector is more protected against the downturn in the economy unlike other sectors such as manufacturing.

This is one reason behind the participation of many service companies in the Franchise Asia 2001 held last month.

Here are some of these service companies that are inviting franchisees to invest in their products and services.

Roto-Rooter

Filipino families and commercial establishments have long complained about the bad service provided by plumbers whose names and contact numbers are nailed to telephone posts.

Roto-Rooter, America's largest provider of plumbing and drain cleaning services, wants to be the cost-effective alternative to these concerns.

Founded in 1934 by Samuel Blanc in Des Moines, Iowa, Roto-Rooter has grown from a family business to an international company that operates businesses in more than 100 company-owned territories and more than 500 franchises around the world.

Roto-Rooter's provides 24-hour, complete plumbing services, including drain cleaning and de-clogging, septic and grease trap pumping, and commercial and industrial pipe cleaning. They also provide preventive maintenance.

Roto-Rooter's typical clients include condominiums, hotels, restaurants, residences, factories, power plants, refineries, airports and retail establishments.

Myra Santiago, marketing manager of Roto-Rooter Philippines, says the company is offering franchises that will cover large territories. The franchise fee will range from P350,000 to P5 million depending on the size and population demographics. Territories can range from a small residential area to entire regions.

Santiago says the initial investment can start as low as P1.3 million, excluding operational costs and license fee. This includes the truck, standard equipment and tools, IT and communications, office supplies, insurance and advertising.

Payback period is estimated at 18 to 30 months depending on the initial investment. Areas open for franchise are Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog and the Visayas.

All operations are currently company-owned. Roto-Rooter Philippines has been in operations for five years now and has just recently begun to entertain franchise inquiries.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

Entrepreneurs with between P2 and P3 million in ready capital can consider owning a Pilipinas Shell gasoline station. The average rate of return on investment ranges from 30 to 40 percent and average payback period is about two to three years.

The investment will cover fuels inventory, lubricants inventory, merchandise in the Shell Shop, lube/washbay equipment, initial operating expense such as salaries and uniforms, and a power generator.

Shell is the second largest petroleum refining company. A Shell retailer will be given the right to use Shell's logos and access to research.

Shell provides specific market studies for each outlet including projected sales, operating expense, capitalization, employee requirement and others. This ensures retailers that each site is viable.

Shell will also provide a complete set of operating standards and procedures for successful retailing operations, as well as advertising and marketing programs with nationwide campaigns.

Every retailer will report to Shell's retail executives who are well trained to provide reasonable assistance and advice in relation to operations, marketing, merchandising, products sourcing and control of operating costs.

Shell, on the other hand, will choose retailers based on their management skills. The retailer will provide the time and effort in operating the business. He will also take care of the daily operations and provide equipment for car washers, generators and office furniture.

Shell does not require a franchise fee, but the retailer will pay Shell his monthly royalty and retailer fees.

Mr. Quickie

Mr. Quickie, named as The Most Promising Filipino Franchise of the Year 2000, on the other hand, is for entrepreneurs who have an initial capital investment of about P1.2 million.

This includes P180,000 in franchise fee, P700,000 for the cost of the machinery, between P60,000 and P90,000 in cost of tools, initial inventory and pre-operating expenses; and up to P250,000 for renovation costs.

Mr. Quickie also charges a royalty and advertising fee equivalent to 7 percent of monthly gross revenues.

Mr. Quickie is an established name in quality shoes and bags repair, dyeing or shining. It has become synonymous with combining the craftsmanship of good old *zapateros* and the precision and speed of modern shoe repair equipment and machinery.

To help those with meager funds but are willing to get into the business, Mr. Quickie offers an in-house financing program.

Mr. Quickie says it will assess and determine the feasibility of the franchisee's prospective site, but says it will likely be approved if it is in a mall, near marketplaces and public transportation stops.

Payback period is about two to three years in an average shop. Profit rate is set at 20 to 30 percent, and rate of return on investment is between 20 and 40 percent.

It is considered a good business opportunity because it serves everyone from the A to the C markets. Mr. Quickie also has a proven track record of high customer acceptance and repeat customer patronage.

Business Box

Being an archipelago with over 7,000 islands, freight forwarding is a profitable business. More so because of the families here sending gifts and food to their loved ones overseas.

This is one reason why Business Box was put up in 1994, to cater to clients looking for an easy and affordable access to business services and facilities such as freight forwarding and even quick printing, domestic and overseas telephone calls, warehousing, quick binding and trucking.

"The business is about moving people, cargo and information," Business Box's Raul R. Artadi explains.

From just one branch, Artadi says Business Box now has over 11 branches, including those as far as General Santos and Davao. Franchisees operate the outlets in Alabang, Muntinlupa, Cubao, Davao, Cebu, Guadalupe and Lipa City.

Putting up a Business Box franchise will require P1 million in initial capital, the bulk of which would be used for the construction of a typical 40-square-meter site.

The franchise fee is P300,000 which covers the site evaluation, training, use of the brand name, extension of the security bond for the travel agency, operations manuals and advice on how to develop the business and access to continued research and development.

"The target market is broad. It includes students to entrepreneurs to corporations who have requirements. Metro Manila is a pretty big market," Artadi says.

Artadi cautions that Business Box does not guarantee profitability levels, saying that it would be up to the franchisees to develop the markets themselves. The good ones, however, have been able to recover their investment in less than two years.

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The GSIS scandals and moves to amend its charter

(From page C3)

which stifled its growth. Under the old charter, for example, increases in premiums and pensions required the approval of Congress and/or the Philippine President.

While the New Charter concentrated on social insurance, there were, however, provisions on the administrative management of the institution, which included exemption from the Salary Standardization Law (SSC) since salaries were pegged to the levels of the entire government bureaucracy (at that time, I was receiving a basic monthly salary of P26,000 as president/CEO of the GSIS. The VP for Investments, who was handling stock trading and commercial loans evaluation in the millions of pesos, was getting P18,000 a month).

There was no debating on the need to upgrade salaries to be competitive with other GFIs and the private financial sector to attract technocrats and executive-caliber staff.

But to ensure that appointment of competent people to the Board and the CEO position, qualification requirements and standards were specified in the law, while the job evaluation study conducted by a third party defined functions and responsibilities, and proposed a reasonable and competitive compensation scheme for all other positions.

The powers of the Board and the CEO were also defined. Investment guidelines were amplified. The power to increase pension benefits, which now rested on the institution, required strict adherence to sound actuarial principles.

The GSIS Act of 1996 was the product of a year of painstaking review and consultation work among the GSIS, the two chambers of Congress, other government institutions, and the System's clientele and membership.

It was a "dream come true" for the capable and honest executives and staff of GSIS. Looking back, had I been armed with this charter, the GSIS could have posted even more impressive records than were achieved during my watch: increase in gross revenues from P14.310 billion to P31.326 billion, net profits from P7.016 billion to P18.515 billion, assets from P50.794 billion to P120.084 billion and actuarial reserves from P43.842 billion to P105.997 billion, during the period of 1992 to 1997.

The GSIS Act of 1996 is a good and sound law. It was meant to—and still can—catapult the GSIS into one of the strongest and most respected financial institutions of the country.

But placed in the wrong hands, the law could be abused, as what recently happened. In the cases of the bloated salaries and the overly generous retirement plan, even the militant employees became silent as they likewise became the beneficiaries of the schemes adopted.

So what do we achieve by amending the GSIS charter? Tie-down the hands of the people running the institution, which, in the long run, will be disadvantageous to the members? Wouldn't it be more proper if those involved in the manipulations and scandals were removed, and if warranted, brought to court? Changing the charter is not the solution.

No law can beat the scheming tactics of evil men. The GSIS Act of 1996 should stay. Let those with evil intentions take leave. *(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, president and CEO of Planning & Research Institute for Strategic Management and former secretary of the Interior and Local Government and president/general manager of Government Service and Insurance System. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph.)*

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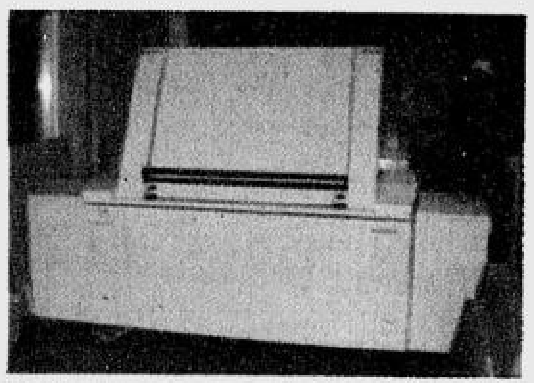
Lexmedia Digital Launches Digital Ad Distribution Service

The advertising and newspaper publishing industry has greatly benefited from the use of digital technology in their respective workflows. However, there is a large analogue gap between the two domains -- film. **Lexmedia Digital** wants to bridge that gap with a service called **Digital Ad Distribution.**

Digital technology has significantly changed almost every aspect of how a newspaper is produced. The creation of each day's Philippine Daily Inquirer begins when reporters key in the news they have gathered into desktop computers while photographers download images they have captured on digital cameras for cleanup and enhancement; editors quickly check copy on monitors or through prints from a laser printer while layout artists bring all the elements together on powerful workstations.

Once assembled, the newspaper pages are sent across a wide-area network to printing plants in Makati, Cebu and Davao where the data is electronically imaged onto printing plates and run on the high-speed printing presses.

It was only as recent as three years ago that newspapers employed skilled individuals whose jobs were to manually assemble pages in preparation for printing. This process, called stripping, was prone to human error, often resulting in misregistered images and unwanted color shifts.



The Inquirer becomes the first newspaper in the Philippines to use thermal computer-to-plate, as seen in this installation at their printer, FEP Printing Corporation.

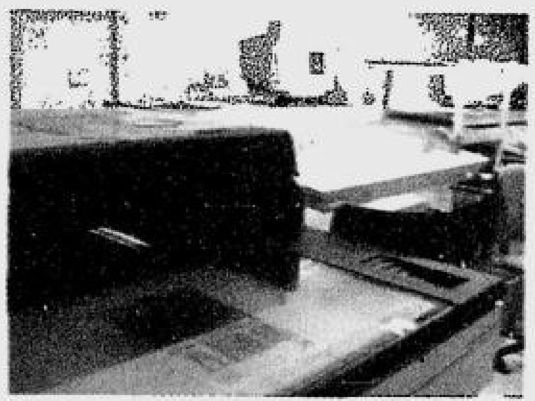
At present, the Inquirer uses a faster production process called Computer-to-Plate where digital data is converted to analogue materials one step prior to the press run. The shorter production cycle means that editors can keep pages open until the very last minute to accommodate late-breaking news. Manual stripping has been eliminated and the use of silver halide film has been dramatically reduced, resulting in a cleaner and greener Inquirer as photochemical developing is no longer required.

Meanwhile, the only other part of the newspaper not created internally -- advertisements, have also benefited from the use of technology in their workflows. Almost all of the ads we see printed in today's newspaper are produced on a computer, assembled in a similar manner a newspaper puts together its news pages.

However, when advertisers have finalized their content, they send the files to a service bureau for film imagesetting or color separation. The positives are then physically delivered to the publication for integration into the day's newspaper.

For newspapers enjoying the benefits of the increased digitization, integrating film-based advertising materials into a digital workflow can be a tedious and expensive proposition. The Inquirer, along with a few other newspapers resort to a process called copydot scanning to deal with films submitted by advertisers. With copydot scanning, films are re-digitized by using an expensive

DIGITAL AD/C6



Newspapers are resorting to the tedious and expensive process of copydot scanning to digitize film-based advertising materials.

Y
Layout Version #1
"Nice! But blue seems more her color..."
Art Director
C M K
"SUN GIRL" PRNT AD:FA1 11/02/01 2:25 AM

A little variety goes a long way, especially in advertising. Even the best ads lose their power to attract when repeated too many times. By sending your ads by disk or Internet directly to the newspaper, Lexmedia's Digital Ad Delivery Service saves you time and production money for more ads, more often.

Lexmedia DIGITAL

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Digital Ad ...

(FROM PAGE C5)

flatbed scanner built specifically for this process. The resulting scan creates a dot-by-dot 200 megabyte digital image of the advertising films. Once these files are saved, they are transferred to another workstation for cleanup, because the scanners also capture all the dirt, dust and scratches that get on the film during delivery.

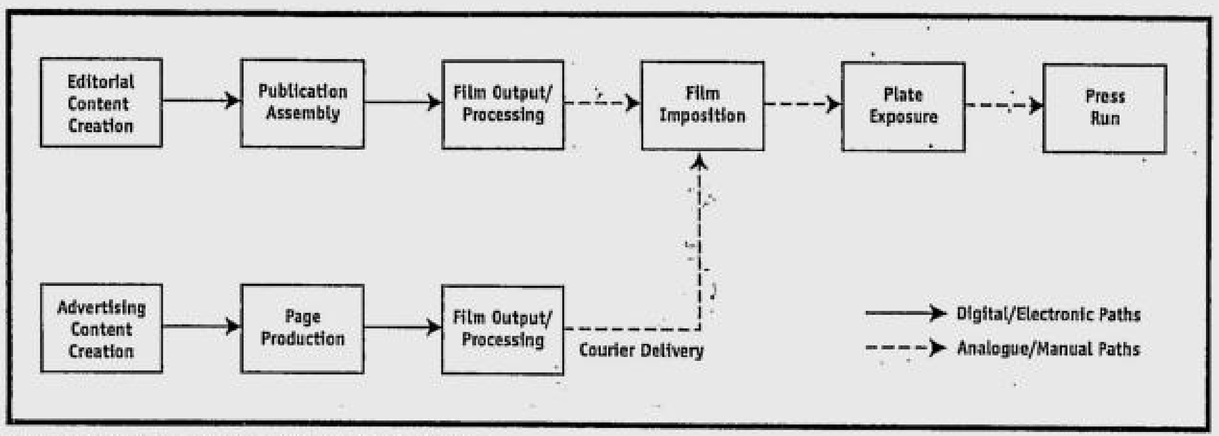
As simple as this may sound, try transferring this big file across your network and opening it on your workstation. It still takes some time even on the fastest and newest technologies. Once cleaned, it is only then that re-digitized advertisements are imported into the layout software and placed alongside the editorial content and passed on down the production process.

Today, advertising material delivery remains as one of the last few processes that has not yet been truly digitized in the newspaper advertising workflow. Lexmedia Digital intends to change this with Digital Ad Distribution.

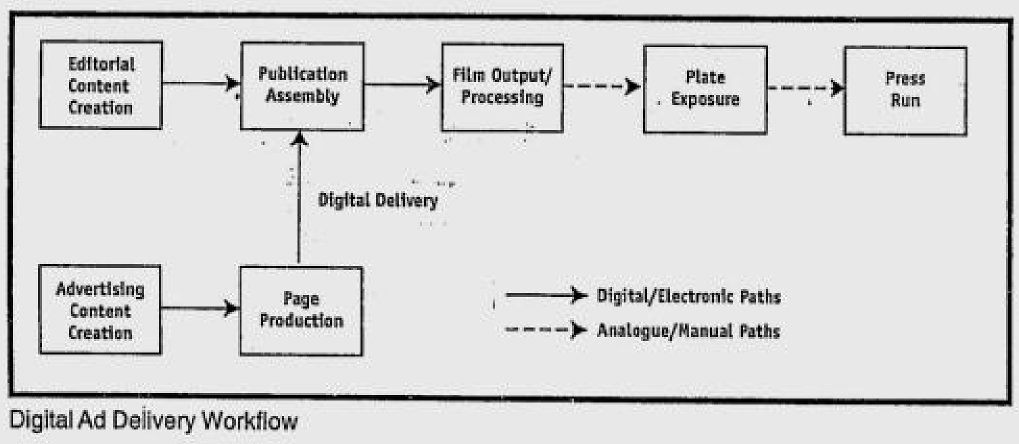
The premise of Lexmedia's Digital Ad Distribution Service (DADS) is simple. Since the advertiser starts with a digital file and the newspaper requires a digital file, why not deliver the computer file to begin with?

Lexmedia Digital's Brian Ng admits that, while the premise is indeed simple, the solution is not. He says, "the two main issues are first, ensuring that advertising content does not change when moving files from one computer to another. Second, we have to take into consideration the advertiser's need for hard-copy proofs which are mostly created from film."

Lexmedia Digital uses a digital proofer to support the Digital Ad Distribution Service. The proofer prints to the actual publication's newsprint, providing an accurate representation of how the color interacts with non-white paper.


Editorial Content Creation
Publication Assembly
Film Output/ Processing
Film Imposition
Plate Exposure
Press Run
Advertising Content Creation
Page Production
Film Output/ Processing
Courier Delivery
Digital/Electronic Paths
Analogue/Manual Paths

Existing Publication and Ad Delivery Workflow


Editorial Content Creation
Publication Assembly
Film Output/ Processing
Plate Exposure
Press Run
Digital Delivery
Advertising Content Creation
Page Production
Digital/Electronic Paths
Analogue/Manual Paths

Digital Ad Delivery Workflow

Anybody who has attempted to move media-rich files from one computer to another know the number of factors involved to ensure that content integrity is maintained. This means having to deal with numerous elements (such as fonts, graphics, color images) and large file sizes. Should any of these elements be missing, the file will no longer be the same.

This is why film is attractive for advertisers. Once film is created and a proof is made from the film, the advertiser is sure that there will be little chance for unwanted changes that may happen when the ad is printed in the newspaper.

In order to address these issues, Lexmedia Digital is resorting to Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF) as the transfer file format of choice as these have the ability to encapsulate all related elements such as fonts and graphics into a single file.

The PDF format is the de facto standard for digital advertising material delivery for many European countries. It is very robust that it can be transferred across different operating platforms without problems. It also has the ability to reduce content to 1/10th of the original file size, making it possible to move digital advertising material across the internet. On the proofing side, Lexmedia's Digital Ad Distribution Service includes a digital proof printed onto the actual newsprint used by the publication.

"The level of accuracy is very high when we compare the digital proof against the actual print." according to Mr. Ng. He adds, "the proofing workflow actually uses the same RIPs as those which output the Inquirer's plates. This way we are pretty sure that what appear on the proof will also appear on the newspaper, errors included."

Asked what the industry could expect these coming months, Brian responds: "We need to do several things simultaneously. The biggest issue we have to address is the learning curve required to support the process. Most of the advertisers have enough expertise to create files that will print properly. What we need to do is to be able to teach them how to maintain the files print-readiness when they export it to PDF. We must also get people to become more confident with digital proofs. Lastly, we need to look for partners in the telecommunications industry to make high-speed internet and data lines accessible and affordable. At present, we are working on a system to be able to receive, check, process and deliver digital ads completely online. For this to work, all three issues, PDF, Proofing and data transmission, must be addressed adequately. It's an uphill battle but we think the benefits make the effort all worthwhile."

Lexmedia Digital's Faarni Sindatoc demonstrates the digital ad distribution process as production supervisor Edmond Reyes looks on.

C M Y K
Layout Version #2
"Hmmm. Maybe something floral."
Creative Director
C M K
"SUN GIRL" PRNT AD:FA2 11/02/01 2:45 AM

A great campaign should have great coverage, meaning you can stretch one good idea with a variety of ads and placements. By placing your ad in digital form directly in the newspaper, Lexmedia's Digital Ad Delivery Service saves you the money to do just that. Now you can have more versions and placements at a price that won't stretch your budget.

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The Benefits of Digital Ad Distribution

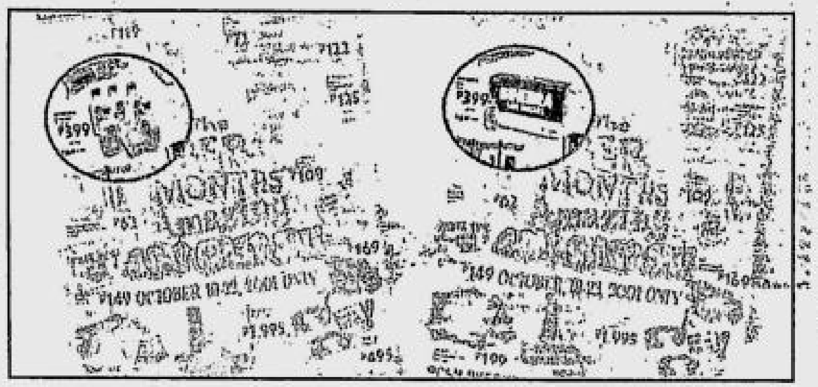
The Advertiser:

Shorter Production Lead Times: Advertisers do not have to factor in film production and delivery to meet publication deadlines. Files can still be sent at the last minute and still be on time. This gives the advertiser more time to create cutting-edge advertising, which includes responding to the competitor's late-breaking marketing campaign.

Lower Cost of Production: Ad content is delivered and inserted into the publication digitally. Films or plates are only generated by the publication, saving the advertiser costs associated with positive output and color separation. No need to re-output films when there are revisions to the advertising content.

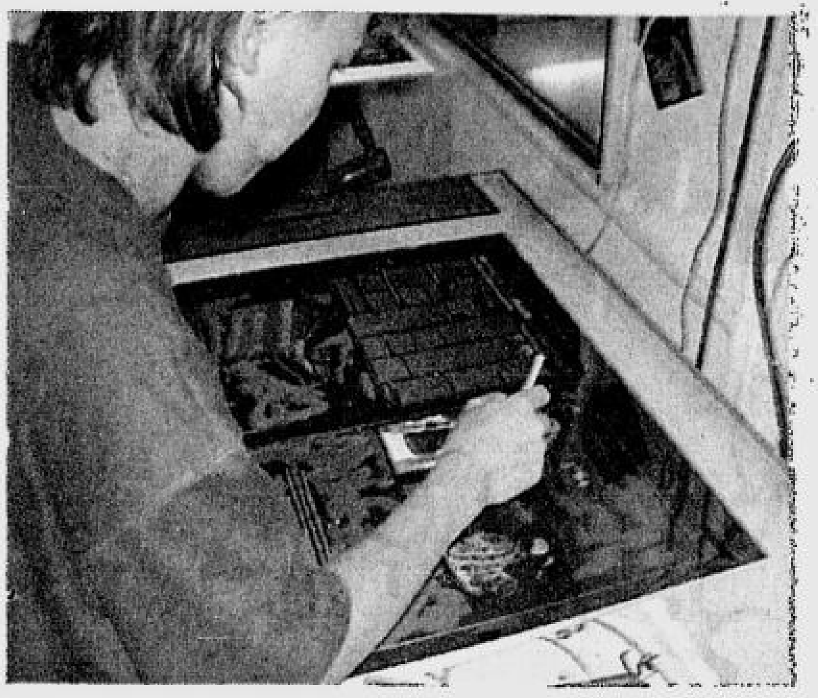
Higher Quality: Because Digital Ad Distribution eliminates several intermediary steps such as film output and copydot scanning (see diagram on page C6), there is less chance of halftone generation loss. Color shifts are minimized. Also, because there are no analogue material to be delivered, physical handling issues such as dust, scratches and film expansion problems are eliminated. Copydot scanners cannot distinguish between dust and a tiny halftone dot, resulting in unwanted artifacts. With digital ad transmission, ad materials come out much cleaner on press.

Ad Content Localization or Versioning: An advertiser running a national campaign can have the flexibility of localizing their advertising content. Newspapers with a nationwide printing capability such as the Inquirer allow advertisers to submit different materials for insertion at its printing locations in Makati, Cebu and Davao. Thus, a bank, supermarket or telecommunications provider could create region-specific advertising (indicate local addresses, use of the local dialect) to reach a target audience. Making content more relevant to the local market increases the value of the advertising.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE? The ad on the right was printed in Manila while the one on the left printed in Cebu and Davao. While the difference is subtle, it raises a lot of opportunities for targeted advertising. Materials used are for discussion purposes only.

The Publication:



DINOSAUR? With digital ad delivery, manual film assembly and cleanup could be a thing of the past.

Less Manual Material Handling & Higher Quality: Advertising materials are electronically inserted and positioned into the page and becomes part of the layout file. This integrated file can now output directly to film or plate, eliminating the need for manual stripping of layouts. This may lessen advertiser complaints due to the reduction of the possibility of misregistration and color shifts. It also shortens the time it takes for pages to get to press, which can equate to later editorial deadlines to accommodate fresher news content. Publications also no longer need to invest in or expand their copydot scanning facilities.

Content Repurposing: An all-digital workflow can facilitate content transmission to satellite printing sites. Complete newspapers can also be stored electronically on CD-ROM for future repurposing projects (special edition books, library/search services, etc.) and eliminates the need for microfilm recording and having to worry about archive deterioration.

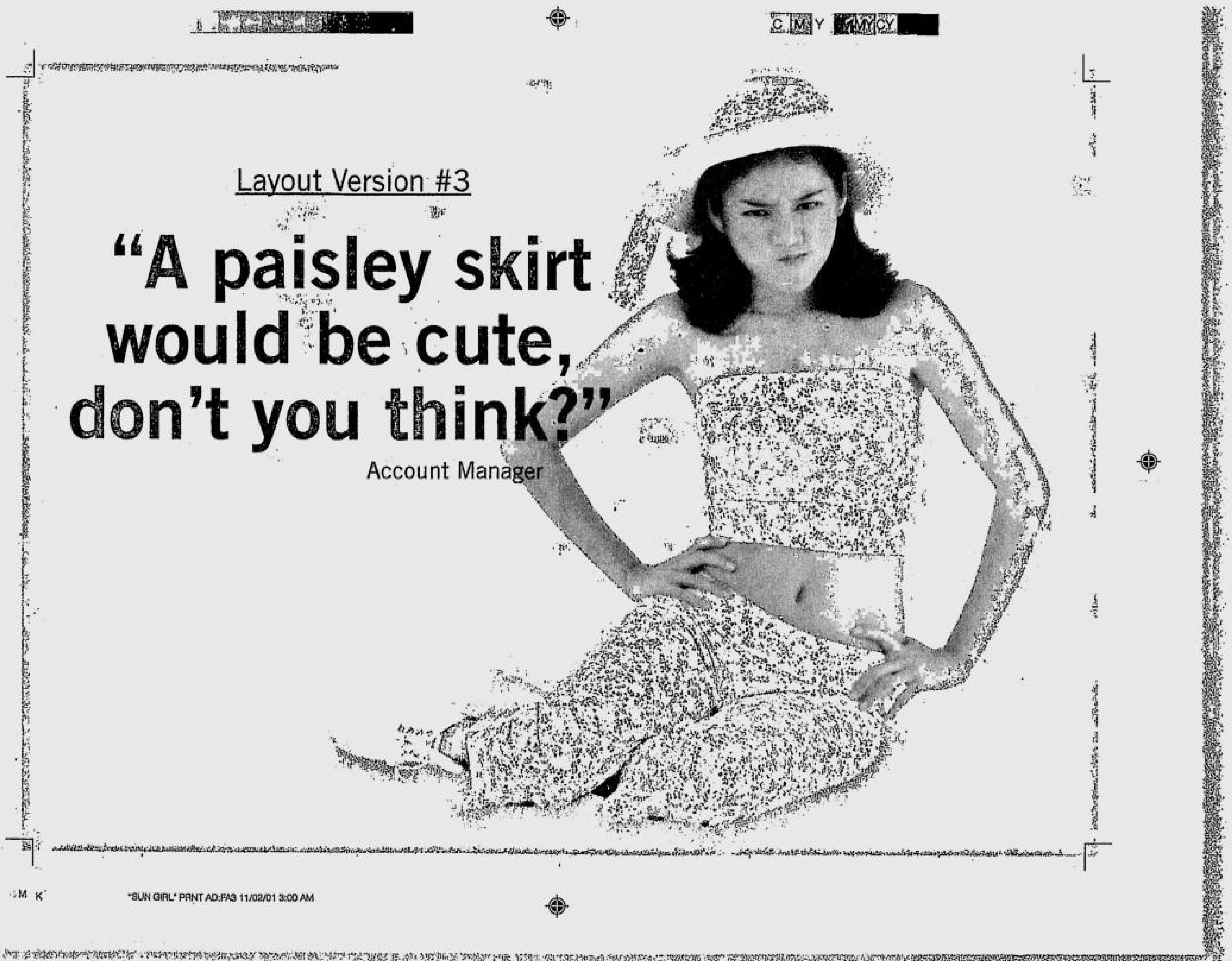
Value-added Services: Digital ad delivery allows advertisers to send ad files electronically, such as through a modem or via the Internet. Digital ads also allow the newspaper to perform, on behalf of the advertiser, minor corrections on-site thus lessening prepress and press equipment downtime.

FEP Printing Corp. and Lexmedia Digital in Outsourcing Arrangement

FEP Printing Corp., exclusive printer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, has contracted the services of Lexmedia Digital for the management of its prepress and IT facilities to include staffing and facility management. Lexmedia will also ensure that the prepress facilities and manpower are capable of fulfilling FEP Printing's fast-growing requirements. Aside from the Inquirer, FEP Printing handles the printing of the Asian Wall Street Journal and the titles of Inquirer Publications, Inc. Operations are spread across printing facilities in Makati, Cebu and Davao with a fourth coming online in Laguna by January next year.

One of the first projects Lexmedia Digital looks forward to completing is the migration of FEP Printing Corporation to a fully-digital prepress workflow. The past few months has seen installation of a fully-automatic prepress workflow system called Eskonet. Installed at all 3 sites, the Purup-Eskofot product manages the automatic transmission, imposition and output of the newspaper pages to film and plate. Lexmedia Digital has also overseen the implemen-tation of FEP's first Computer-to-Plate system. The platesetter, a Trendsetter News100 from CreoScitex was obtained from Philippine representatives Graphic Sales, Inc. First installed in its Makati facility, the equipment has proven to be successful that FEP Printing has proceeded with the purchase of 3 more systems to cover the requirements of all printing sites. Expected completion is February 2002.

Representatives of the Vancouver-based CreoScitex visits FEP Printing Corporation to discuss directions for upcoming computer-to-plate installations. From left to right: Brian Ng, Lexmedia Digital General Manager; Ronen Sobel, Customer Support Director, CreoScitex; Christine Marayag, Sales Manager, Graphic Sales (CreoScitex Philippine Representatives); Andre Boers, VP Sales & Marketing, CreoScitex; Alan Noon, Marketing Manager, CreoScitex; and Eric Ng, VP, Sales, Graphic Sales.


Layout Version #3
"A paisley skirt would be cute, don't you think?"
Account Manager
"SUN GIRL" PRNT AD:FA3 11/02/01 3:00 AM

Take a look at the results. Then adapt. Lexmedia's Digital Ad Delivery Service shows you proofs on the actual newsprint, so you're sure that what you see is what you get. And if you're still not satisfied, changes can be made in just minutes - digitally, without stripping. Or color separating. With Lexmedia, you can afford to change for the better.

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RIBBON-CUTTING (from left): Brian Ng, Ben Pangilinan, Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto, Atty. Pat Garcia and Dennis Valdes.

BLESSING CEREMONY by Fr. Rommel Cruz, MSP

LEXMEDIA DIGITAL'S President, Dennis Valdes calls on the advertising and publishing industry to "GO DIGITAL".

FEP PRINTING CORP. Chairman Cary Rufino (center) squeezes between Inquirer's Rene Reinoso (left) and Primex Printing's Bert Calaquian.

Lexmedia DIGITAL

The new offices of Lexmedia Digital were opened in simple ceremonies last October 8, 2001. The event was led by Lexmedia Digital President Dennis Valdes and were witnessed by guests from the news publishing, advertising and graphic industries.

THE LEXMEDIA DIGITAL offices were designed by Tessa Prieto-Valdes (left). Alongside are Inquirer President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and finance officer, Jun Ymson.

INQUIRER CHAIR Marixi Prieto accompanied by husband, Alex.

(From left) BONG Almonguera of Ynzal Marketing, Graphic Designer Ige Ramos, Apple Phils. Channel Manager Chris Tan, EPSON Phils. Marketing Manager Randy Kanapi, Web Philippines General Manager Roger Chua and Apple Philippines General Manager Charlie Tang.

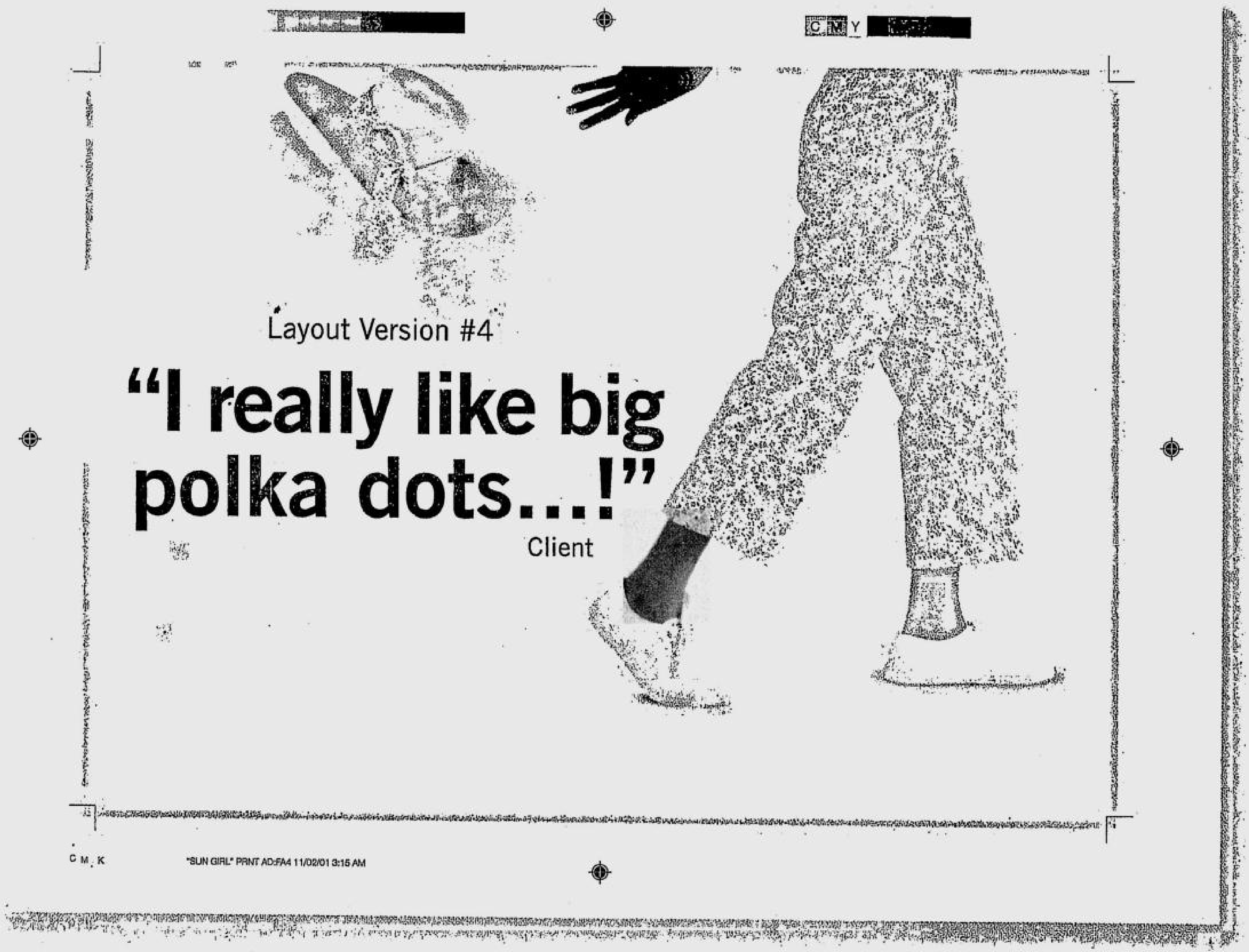
WORLDSITES' Edlynn Frondoso-Ng (left) with Christine Marayag of Graphic Sales and event organizer Norelyn Babiera of Fiera de Manila (right)

SOL YUYITUNG (left) of the Chinese Commercial News with Bert Calaquian of Primex Printers and Dick Ng (right) of KN Industries.

THE LEXMEDIA DIGITAL production and marketing team.

SOME guests from the country's advertising industry with J. Walter Thompson's Moppet Valdez (2nd from right).

LEXMEDIA DIGITAL'S General Manager Brian Ng outlining Lexmedia's directions and services.


Layout Version #4
"I really like big polka dots...!"
Client
C M K
"SUN GIRL" PRNT AD:FA4 11/02/01 3:15 AM

With Lexmedia's revolutionary Digital Ad Delivery Service, you won't need color separations. Or film. Lexmedia sends your digital files directly to the newspaper for production, saving you time and money for more ads, more often. With Lexmedia, your only limit is your imagination.

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How to borrow money from a bank

By Sonia Tiong-Aquino
UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

GOING INTO BUSINESS

ARE YOU one of those small business entrepreneurs who hesitate to approach a bank for a loan? Do you think banks will only snub you because your business is small and you have no track record? Are you worried that you might not be able to follow their complicated procedures and submit the documents they normally require? Are you afraid that the bank will simply dismiss you as a poor credit risk?

Well, some of your fears about banks and their lending operations are warranted.

But think of it this way: banks are in business to make money for their owners, and their main concern is to safeguard the funds against potential theft or loss. Now, you need the kind of funds that only banks can provide.

It's only fair that you work within the restrictions (or procedures) banks have set up to assure that they lend out their money to those who they consider to be good creditors and to businesses which they think are sound propositions.

Here is another way of looking at it.

There are banks—commercial, development, thrift, cooperative, etc.—which have the experience and expertise to lend to small businesses like yours. Believe me, they will be able to understand your needs and work out a comfortable loan arrangement that you can live with. Or, one that meets your capacity to pay.

Most banks should be able to accommodate your loan application. Many of them act as "conduits" or "retailers" (otherwise called "participating financial institutions") of wholesale credit programs managed by government financing institutions, such as the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Land Bank of the Philippines, and the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp.

These government financing institutions receive funds not only from the Philippine government but also from foreign and international financing sources for relending to small enterprises.

Meaning, there is money available for a small business from banks, which have a clear appreciation of the nature and requirements of small-scale ventures.

Preliminary procedures

To give you a better picture of how securing a loan from a bank works, let me assume the role of a lending officer.

You have accomplished and submitted to our bank a credit application form with the following attachments: residence certificate, business tax declaration for the past three years, bank and trade references, and a photocopy of title of property being offered as collateral.

Subsequently, one of my credit investigators will visit your production facility and interview you to gather primary credit information, such as your credibility as a borrower.

I will also inspect the machines and equipment you use in the business. He will then visit the real estate property you have offered as collateral and verify the authenticity of your title with the proper government agencies.

I may also require you to submit a business plan. (In the case of a new enterprise, a feasibility study may be needed, which may be a simple or complex one depending on the nature of the business, its product(s) and the technology it will employ, among others.)

The business plan or the feasibility study reflects how you perceive your business to proceed, the present and future performance of the industry you are in, and your projection of business prospects in the years ahead.

The credit investigator puts together the documents you have submitted and his evaluation reports in a file folder and sends the file to our bank's credit unit for technical appraisal and valuation of collateral.

As a matter of policy, the bank trusts the capability of our credit officers to make reasonable valuation of collaterals.

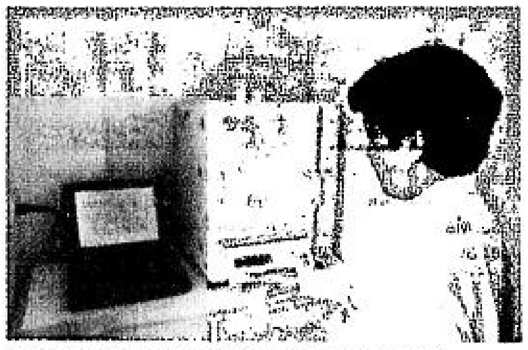
We consider their judgment as a necessary step in ensuring a stress-free business relationship that upholds the interests of the bank and the borrower's as well. In many cases, settling the sticky issue of collaterals sets the tone of how your loan transaction with a bank will prosper.

The credit evaluation and the collateral appraisal are presented in a project appraisal report.

The Appraisal Report is accompanied by an offering ticket containing the following:

- Critical factors: market, production process and schedule, raw materials used and sources, financial analysis, assumptions and projections

HOW/ C10



FAST Laboratories help in quality control.

Minding others' business is the company business

By Michelle V. Remo

WHILE firms are occupied with increasing their share of the market pie, there are organizations that help firms perform one of the crucial aspects of doing business—quality control.

FAST Laboratories, short for First Analytical Services and Technical Cooperative, is one of these.

As FAST says, taking care of others' business is its main business.

FAST helps make sure that food products of a food chain are safe for public consumption, that vitamin contents of animal feeds are fortified, or that water supply in an establishment is free from contamination.

It is not an easy job and oftentimes it is a thankless job. But FAST president Rey Kangleon believes that it has to do it as part of its social responsibility.

By ensuring that the quality of food on the table is up to standards, consumers can continue drinking milk in the morning and visiting the nearby fast food for a cheeseburger in the afternoon without even thinking of the possible consequences.

FAST also determines the nutrition contents of food products, which usually appear on their packages, and their shelf life, which are often written in "best before" seals.

For our hamburgers, for example, FAST's calibration service does a big help. Having the right calibration ensures that the hamburgers are cooked through, not raw or overcooked.

Calibration, food process development, shelf life study, nutrition labeling and wastewater quality testing are just some of the services that FAST offers. Other services are water potability test, purity test and food operations quality monitoring, among others.

Kangleon explains that many of the country's top corporations have contracted quality control firms because of their fear that one wrong move will make them lose customers and revenues.

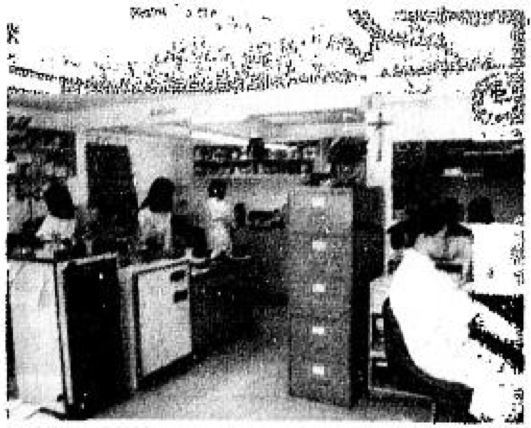
Fast conducts its product studies for companies such as Motorola and food and beverage firm San Miguel Corp. at its laboratories in Cubao and in Batangas.

Kangleon says its men and women have "extensive training and expertise in various technologies involved in food, feed, beverage and other allied industries."

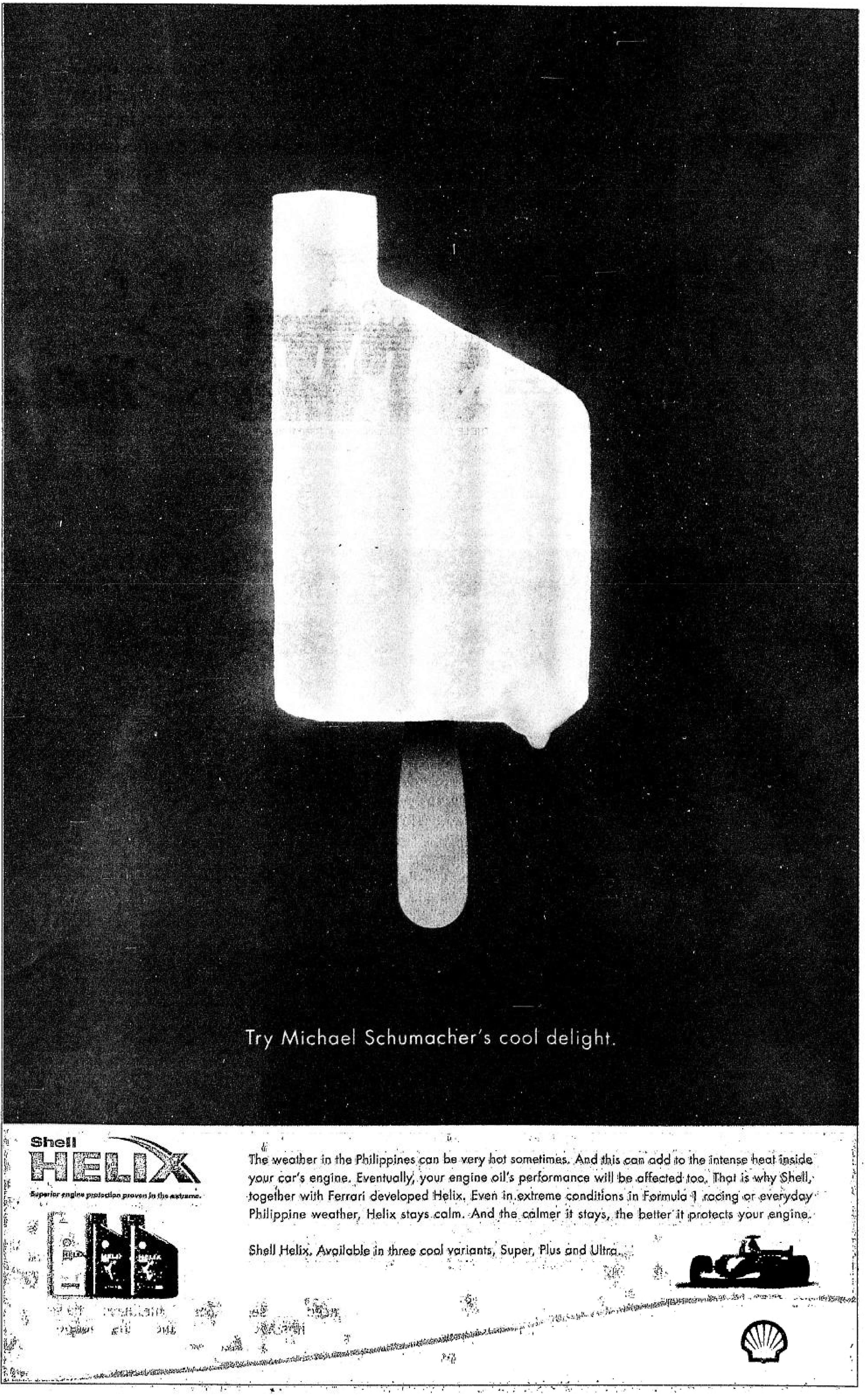
With the health scare stoking public concern these days, such as the infamous anthrax, making sure our food intake is safe has never been more important, he stresses.

Aside from doing its bit for the environment, FAST also helps farm folk in the rural areas develop their animals' produce.

One of its projects was with the Dairy Development Foundation of the Philippines that involved the "development of sterilization process" of fresh milk that aided dairy farmers in their efforts to improve their milk products.



FAST Lab's facilities and office in Cubao


Try Michael Schumacher's cool delight.
Shell
HELIX
Superior engine protection proven in the extreme.

The weather in the Philippines can be very hot sometimes. And this can add to the intense heat inside your car's engine. Eventually, your engine oil's performance will be affected too. That is why Shell, together with Ferrari developed Helix. Even in extreme conditions in Formula 1 racing or everyday Philippine weather, Helix stays calm. And the calmer it stays, the better it protects your engine.

Shell Helix. Available in three cool variants, Super, Plus and Ultra.

In family-owned firms, 8 to 5 does not apply

By Francisco L. Roman
Asian Institute of Management

(First of two parts)

THE POPULAR notion that business takes place only from "8 to 5" does not apply to Philippine family corporations (FamCors).

Some western studies on family firms attempt to separate the family from the business in order to create a dichotomy between the problems facing the two entities. For instance, they see profitability as a business problem and cost of education as a family concern, and that issues arising therefrom can be dealt with separately.

In our recently published book on Family Corporations in Transition, the Asian Institute of Management's FamCor faculty presented the results of our two-year study on the dynamics of family corporations.

We focused on one basic concept: Healthy Business = Healthy Family.

We have observed that for many FamCors, the discussion of business issues binds the family together. The difference depends on whether the FamCor is engaged or enmeshed. In lieu of psychological definitions, let me cite some examples.

A family that gets together one day in a week for a Saturday or Sunday family council might be regarded as "engaged." That is, the different members in the family council have other meaningful activities during the week and the family, as a group, discusses their business activities only once in a week.

On the other hand, an extended family might live in a large compound. The family members meet daily, each morning at breakfast in the "main house" of the patriarch or founding father of the firm.

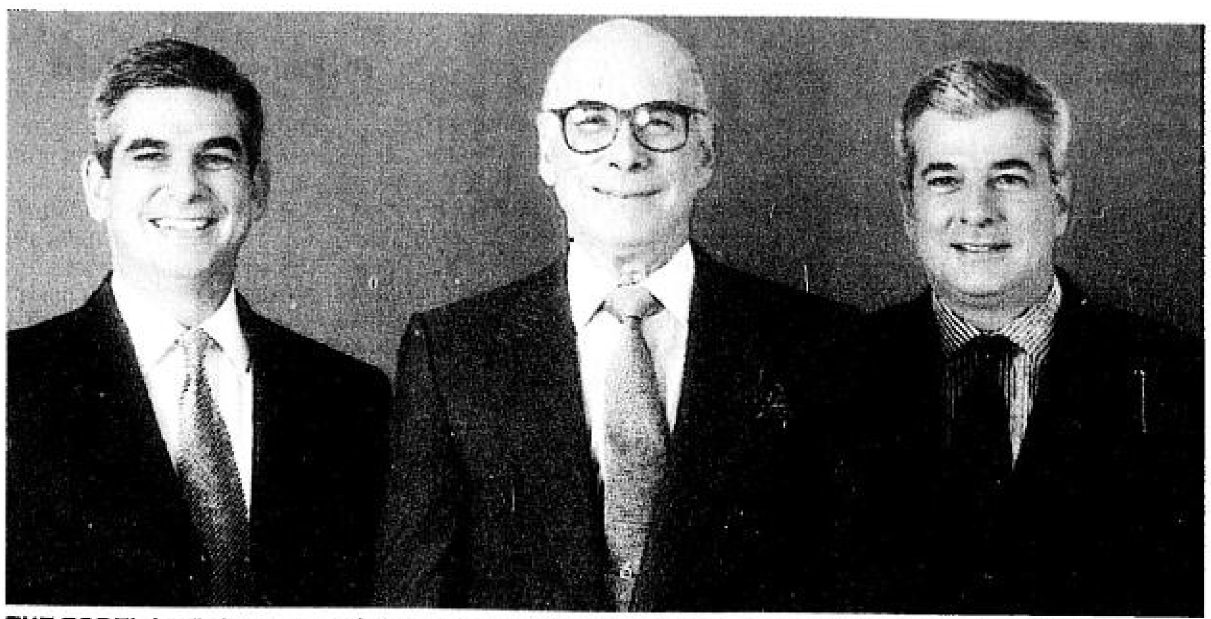
They discuss their business-related plans for the day, and then they report to the patriarch again at the end of the same day, even before going home to their respective families.

This FamCor might be described as "enmeshed." The business issues overwhelm all other concerns that might be natural with families—health, pregnancies, etc.

Since it is difficult to separate the family from the business, it is essential that both the business and the family are "healthy." The health of the business is relatively easy to measure using familiar, quantitative concepts in management such as market share, net profits over net sales, return-on-investment, and so on.

Measuring the health of a family is more complicated partly because indicators of "health" are primarily psychological and qualitative. However, the AIM FamCor faculty group does not focus on the psychology of the family.

Rather, our focus is on the family corporation's dynamics. FamCor dynamics accept the overlaps that exist and persist between the family and the business.



THE ZOBEL family has successfully handled succession problems. It is now on its 8th generation led by Jaime Augusto (left) and Fernando (right).

To illustrate a basic universal conceptualization of family dynamics, we draw three overlapping circles labeled: family concerns, ownership in the firm, and its management.

For example, a specific family member may be an owner of the firm through shares of stock, but he/she is not an active manager in the business. This person influences the business of the firm primarily as a director in the board, and receives compensation through dividends.

Another family member might be an owner as well as a manager. This person therefore influences the firm in more ways than one. And of course, there are many members of a family that are neither owners nor managers.

Some might be studying abroad and may yet enter the business as owners or managers or both. Others might be seeking to assert their independence by choosing a non-business career.

The family corporation's dynamics, thus, depend on the interaction of the family under three different circumstances or roles. For example, a family member with several children will have different priorities, expenses, living standards, etc. than another person who is unmarried.

The business may be called upon to meet the different needs of these two different types of family members.

The unmarried member may be in a better position to live off his/her earnings as a manager in the family business. On the other hand, the head of the large family may not have as much time to devote to the family business, even though he/she might have greater financial needs.

Over time, if the first family member remains unmarried, this person can generate surplus income every year and thereby increase his/her shares in the business as "money begets more money." Meanwhile, the head of the large household may have difficulty just keeping pace, and is usually short of cash each year.

This classic overlap is one of the basic problems facing a family council.

Another basic concept in family dynamics runs across generations. The life cycle is a familiar and universal concept applied to biology, economics, the environment, and now to the family. In business, the "product life cycle" posits an early stage of growth, followed by maturity and stagnation, as customers move from interest to enchantment to indifference over a product.

One representation of this life cycle in the family is called the "three-generation phenomenon," with several pithy interpretations: "The first generation builds, the second generation consolidates, and the third generation squanders" or "From rags to riches to ruin." *(To be continued)*

UP REGENT and Manila North Tollways Corp. president and CEO Jose P. de Jesus and Meralco president Jesus Francisco.

(Fromleft) UP Regent and Alumni Association president Eduardo F. Hernandez, UP president Francisco Nemenzo and Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi director Tetsuya Ota.

MEGAWOLRD Foundation SVP-Legal Cirilo Manlangit with Sumitomo Corp. senior deputy general manager Kenichi Onitsuka

(From left) **FORMER** BIR Commissioner Dakila Fonacier, Ayala Corp. VP Danilo Gozo, Globe Telecom SVP Rodolfo Salalima and Ayala Corp. senior managing director Felimon T. Berba.

UP DONORS ALL. (From left) Jacinto Mantaring Jr., Pacific Paints and Oil Manufacturing president and GM Paul V. Ung and retired UP Prof. Ronald Reidenbach.

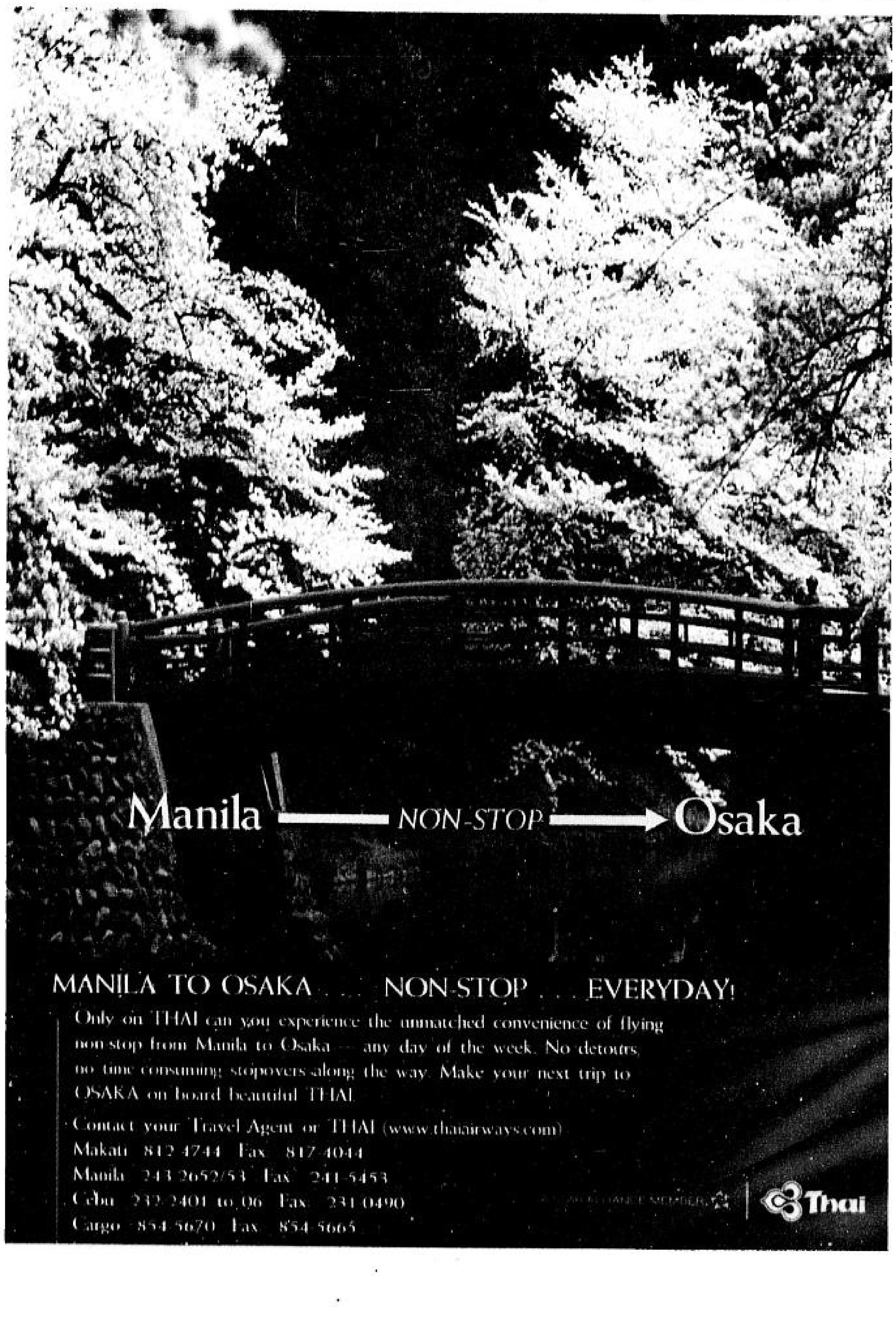
UP honors executive benefactors

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines paid tribute to its numerous corporate, institutional and individual donors in a special dinner held at the UP Executive House, official residence of UP president Dr. Francisco Nemenzo.

Some 80 private citizens, foundations, corporations, alumni associations and alumni were recognized for their contributions. The UP system, which covers six campuses nationwide plus the UP Open University, has received support for its modernization projects, donations for professorial chairs and faculty grants and scholarships.

Representing donors in these three categories were Dakila B. Fonacier, a member of the Board of Trustees of the UP Business Research Foundation Inc., Josefina Cortes, president and chief academic officer of the University of the East and Jesus P. Francisco, Meralco Foundation president.

Among the honored organizations were Meralco, Metrobank Foundation, Ayala Corp., Ayala Foundation, Globe Telecom GMCR Inc., PLDT Foundation, Pascual Laboratories, Procter and Gamble Phils., SunLife of Canada, Bell Atlantic Philippines and the International Rice Research Institute.



MANILA TO OSAKA . . . NON-STOP . . . EVERYDAY!

Only on THAI can you experience the unmatched convenience of flying non-stop from Manila to Osaka — any day of the week. No detours, no time consuming stopovers along the way. Make your next trip to OSAKA on board beautiful THAI.

Contact your Travel Agent or THAI (www.thaiairways.com)
Makati 812-4744 Fax 817-4044
Manila 243-2652/53 Fax 241-5453
Cebu 232-2401 to 06 Fax 231-0490
Cargo 854-5670 Fax 854-5665

How to borrow money from a bank

(From page C9)

- Proposed loan: Amount, interest rate, repayment period, projected financial performance
- Sources of funds: Bank funds, special funds, guaranty facility/program
- Governing terms and conditions: equity requirements, schedule of releases, co-maker and sureties, justifications, etc.

Evaluation and approval

As the loan officer, I use the foregoing documents and reports to pre-screen your application, guided by the 4Cs of credit:

Character. Your reputation as a person and businessman is the most important C, which I can determine by going over the documents you have submitted to us.

I'll be asking myself: Do you have a police record? Have you been honest in your dealings with suppliers, creditors and employees? Do you meet your commitments and honor your obligations?

Capability. Your professional competence as a business owner is my next consideration. Do you have the educational background and experience required by the business? Is your product competitive? Do you have a viable market niche?

Capacity. Your ability to raise and manage funds is assessed. What has been the financial performance of your business? Do you manage your cash flow well? Can your business and other sources of income repay your obligations and the loan you are trying to secure?

Collateral refers to the security you have offered, usually real estate property. In some cases, the real estate property is augmented by chattel mortgage on your machinery and equipment or personal vehicle. I'll see to it that your collateral and chattels are free from any lien or encumbrance.

I make a summary of the project appraisal report and my recommendation on your loan application. I then forward these documents to the different levels of approving authority. Generally, the higher the loan amount, the higher the level of approving authority required. Most small business loans are decided by a committee of senior officers of the bank. Only select projects are brought up to the board of directors, such as an application submitted by a relative of a ranking officer of the bank, or when the amount being requested is beyond the maximum loanable amount.

Documentation

Once you application is approved, all pertinent documents are sent to our legal unit for the preparation and documentation of supporting papers including:

- Basic documents: registration, permits, clearances, insurance policies
- Attachment of collaterals: tax receipts, etc.
- Board resolutions and authorization in the case of corporate borrowers
- Loan contract

Release of funds

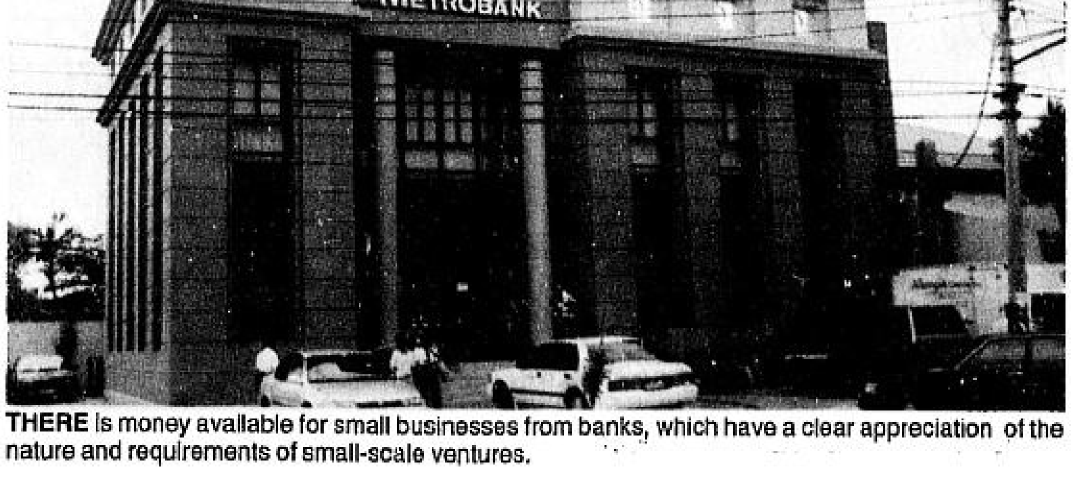
After the signing of the loan contract, I will inform you of the loan drawdown or release schedule. It is rare that you will get the full loan amount in a single release. We try to look for milestones or achievements you have made as a kind of pre-condition for your subsequent releases.

In this manner, you gain our confidence that you are properly using borrowed funds as intended.

Monitoring and supervision

Our relation does not end with the release of funds. We make sure that we periodically visit you to see how you and your business are doing. We understand that small enterprises do not have the flexibility to adjust in the case of sudden turn of events.

We also keep current in new technologies and emerging markets. By seeing you once in a while, we hope to be there to offer our assistance and guidance in any way we can. We know that your progress is our gain too. *(Author's Note: Please check out the Development Bank of the Philippines' Omnibus Financing Program for new businesses and the Industrial Support Services Expansion Program (Issep) for growing enterprises which offer technical as well as credit assistance.)*



THERE is money available for small businesses from banks, which have a clear appreciation of the nature and requirements of small-scale ventures.

Mining firms may help RP strike it rich

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo can endorse a multibillion cigarette manufacturing facility in the country because of the new jobs and investments that it would generate, why shouldn't she promote as well the mining industry which promises to plough in more jobs and bigger investments into the economy?

Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association president Patrick Caoile posed this question to the government that, he said, overlooked the potential of the mining industry as an engine for growth.

While Philip Morris would spend $300 million to build a giant cigarette factory in Batangas to feed Asia's nicotine fix, Caoile said one world-class mining project alone would fetch $800 million in new investments.

At least five investor-groups have projects of this scale pending since the mid-1990s when President Fidel Ramos aggressively promoted the Philippines as mineral exploration site.

Caoile said: "If the President will laud Philip Morris' investment in Batangas, she should take a hard look at the investment proposal of Mindex in Mindoro, Climax in Nueva Vizcaya and Western Mining in Mindanao."

Image problems

Caoile acknowledged that the industry has a serious image problem like tobacco and garbage disposal projects that have been lumped with girlie joints and *jueteng* as absolutely evil enterprises.

Citing an article by Dr. Michael Hopkins (a leading exponent of corporate social responsibilities or CSR and good governance), Caoile said that eliminating a company perceived to be an environmentally critical business might not be at all that productive.

"It's a half-baked social responsibility. A better approach is to grade the 'baddies' on a CSR scale; reduce the portfolio but don't eliminate it. The government must create an index for mining similar to the ones created for the tobacco industry," Caoile said.

Based on a study by Philex Corp. chair and CEO and Chamber of Mines president Gerard Brimo, Caoile said there were seven main issues that have been hung on the industry like scarlet letters—environmental destruction, social acceptability, the industry's past sins, dislocation of communities, uneven distribution of mining profits, sellout of the national patrimony to foreigners and the dislocation of indigenous people.

While he admitted that the industry continues to be haunted by its checkered past such as the Marcopper disaster in Marinduque, Caoile said the government and mining firms have taken drastic steps to minimize the impact of their exploration and production work on the environment.

Caoile said that the 1995 Mining Act had enforced stringent environmental rules and regulations previously missing in past legislation that espouses the use of improved exploration and production technology that is practiced in the most environmentally conscious countries around the world.

Rehabilitation

Mining firms are now compelled to undertake progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas to be bankrolled by the Mine Rehabilitation Fund and closely monitored by government agencies, local government units and civil society organizations.

Unlike utilities and garbage disposal projects, Caoile said mining projects were located in the most remote places where the community is likely to benefit from more employment opportunities and higher tax collections while helping put a stop to the migration of poor upland dwellers to urban centers.

Subscribers caught in middle of cable-TV war

By Abigail L. Ho

AS WAR continues to rage between sister cable companies Sky Vision Corp. and Phil. Home Cable Holdings Corp., and program provider Star TV Group, cable television subscribers find themselves caught in the cross fire.

Some subscribers complained that they were a bit annoyed when, in the middle of watching their favorite Star TV programs on Oct. 19, the signal was suddenly cut off.

Star TV pulled out its channels from SkyCable and Home Cable at 2 p.m. on Oct. 19 due to the cable companies' failure to pay over P160 million in subscription fees, the program provider alleged in advertisements in major dailies over a week ago.

Sky Vision managing director Carlos Tria Jr., however, said it was not because of arrears that they were cut off, but because negotiations for reduced program subscription fees hit a snag weeks before the actual Star TV program pullouts.

SkyCable and Home Cable were negotiating with Star TV for lower programmers' fees. Instead of compromising with them, Tria said the Star TV Group even increased the subscription fees that it was charging the two biggest cable operators in the country.

Since they could no longer afford to pay the high subscription fees, Tria said they had to let the Star TV programs go.

But, much to the dismay of many SkyCable and Home Cable subscribers, at the same time the cable giants lost the Star TV channels, they asked for a monthly subscription rate increase of P150.

Destiny's gain

Since news of that came out almost two weeks ago, many SkyCable and Home Cable subscribers have contemplated switching to smaller cable operators for their cable television service.

One operator that could really cash in on the Sky-Home and Star TV squabble is Solid Group Inc.'s Destiny Cable Inc.

Solid Group vice president for business development and corporate planning Beda Mañalac said there had been "a very significant growth in inquiries and subscriptions" since the Sky-Home and Star TV row started to heat up.

He said Destiny had to increase its "ability to install (lines) and receive calls" to be able to service the sudden surge in demand for the cable operator's services.

Many SkyCable and Home Cable subscribers have already switched to Destiny over the past couple of weeks as most of them said it was the most logical choice.

For one, Destiny has lower rates at only P370 per month. It also has all the channels that SkyCable and Home Cable do not carry anymore because of their disagreement with Star TV: Viva, Star Movies, Starworld, Fox News, National Geographic, Channel V and ESPN Star Sports.

Although Destiny also has plans to jack up its monthly rate, Destiny officials assured consumers that it would not be as high as the sister cable companies' new rates.

Prepared to lose

Tria said SkyCable and Home Cable were prepared to lose "a substantial number" of their subscribers because of the Star TV program pullouts and the impending increase in their monthly rates.

He added that it was "a painful decision" for them to make, but they had to do it anyway for lack of a better alternative.

The Sky-Home consolidated entity has a debt load of over P3.5 billion. This amount is only for its creditor banks. This excludes the amount it owes some of its suppliers, Star TV and other program providers.

In the wake of losing a "substantial number" of subscribers, SkyCable and Home Cable are now the subjects of a National Telecommunications Commission inquiry.

The influx of consumer complaints pushed the NTC to ask the cable companies to explain how they would taper off the effects of their squabble with Star TV on their subscribers.

NTC broadcast department head Carlos Saliuan Jr. said last week that the NTC could only wait for the cable companies' response as the commission could not do anything much about the program pullouts and the impending rate increase.

"Subscription rates are deregulated under a presidential decree. Also, we can't impose on the programmers what programs they want to carry," he said.

Should the NTC find the cable companies guilty of violating any program standards or guidelines, however, SkyCable and Home Cable could face stiff penalties that include revocation of their licenses.

Softening the blow

SkyCable and Home Cable have yet to respond to the NTC's inquiry, but they have already taken some steps to soften the blow of the Star TV program pullouts on their subscribers.

It announced on Thursday that their subscribers could catch National Basketball Association games on cable Channel 29 starting today.

Not being able to witness the comeback of His Airness Michael Jordan to the NBA hard court was the subject of many subscribers' complaints when Star TV pulled the plug on the cable operators.

The 2001 World Series games could also be seen over UHF Channel 23.

Despite these measures, however, SkyCable and Home Cable are still facing a rough road ahead. The cable companies and Star TV said they were willing to go back to the negotiating table, but until their row is resolved, the cable companies' subscribers and the cable companies themselves could only wait and see what the outcome of this whole issue would be.

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3. The Winner will be notified via text that reads: "*Congratulations! You just won P20,000 from Touch Mobile...*" The Winner will also be notified through a phone call from the **Touch Mobile P20,000 Everyday Raffle** team, who will ask for their name and address. They will also be notified through registered mail. Winners for the week will be announced in print-ads.
4. Winners may claim their prizes after: 5 working days for Metro Manila winners & 7 working days for provincial winners. (If the raffle date falls on a weekend or a holiday, count 5 or 7 days from the next working day) Winners may claim their prizes during working days only (Monday-Friday).
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   - Metro Manila Wingers- Globe Telecom Treasury Cashier at the 2F Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong city.
   - Or, in the case of Provincial winners - cheques will be sent to the cashier of the Globe Telecom Business Center nearest to the winner as indicated in the registered mail.
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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ▫ LITO B. ZULUETA, Subsection Editor

New architecture in Berlin

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

ONCE in a rare while Manila is treated to a stunning exhibition on architecture. "New Architecture in Berlin" at the Shangri-La Mall, under the auspices of the Goethe Institute, was one.

The concept of the exhibition was simple. The exhibition's 480 images were in 35-mm slide format and contained in six slide carousels. The Goethe Institute commissioned a tent to be set up inside the glass-walled Shaw Boulevard lobby of the mall to darken an area large enough for six projectors to flash an unending series of multi-screen images of the latest architecture to rise in Berlin since reunification. The tent's sides were open to allow viewers free access.

Setting up the tent at a major crossroads within the Shangri-La filled it with people during all hours of the day, proof that to attract more visitors to an exhibit, the exhibit should be brought to the people rather than setting it up in the ivory tower of a museum or a university.

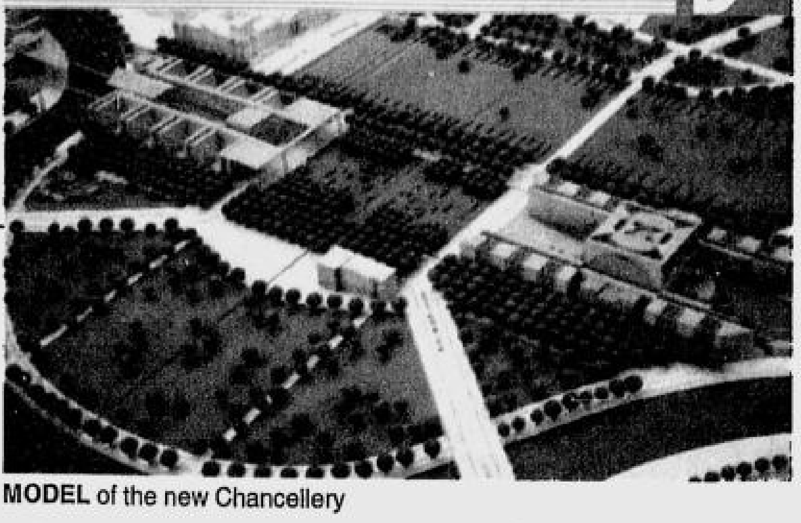
Broad spectrum

The slides that were flashed in rapid succession on several screens by six projectors created a flood of multifaceted images of public and private exteriors in Berlin, showing their less accessible interior views. The collection presented a broad spectrum of architectural and urban renewal in Berlin after the fall of the Wall in October 1989.

Although this was not a complete documentation of all of the new constructions in Berlin at the moment, the slides showed the ambitious scale of the gigantic undertaking to change the public face of Berlin that begun in the 1990s and extend to the present.

The images documented a race to change the face of a city, a driving force to transform Berlin into the new German capital. Most of all, they presented to the world

NEW/ p. D4



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Return of the native

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

OFELIA Gelvezon-Tequi, the Paris-based Filipino painter and printmaker, was in Manila recently for a short vacation and to grace her two shows.

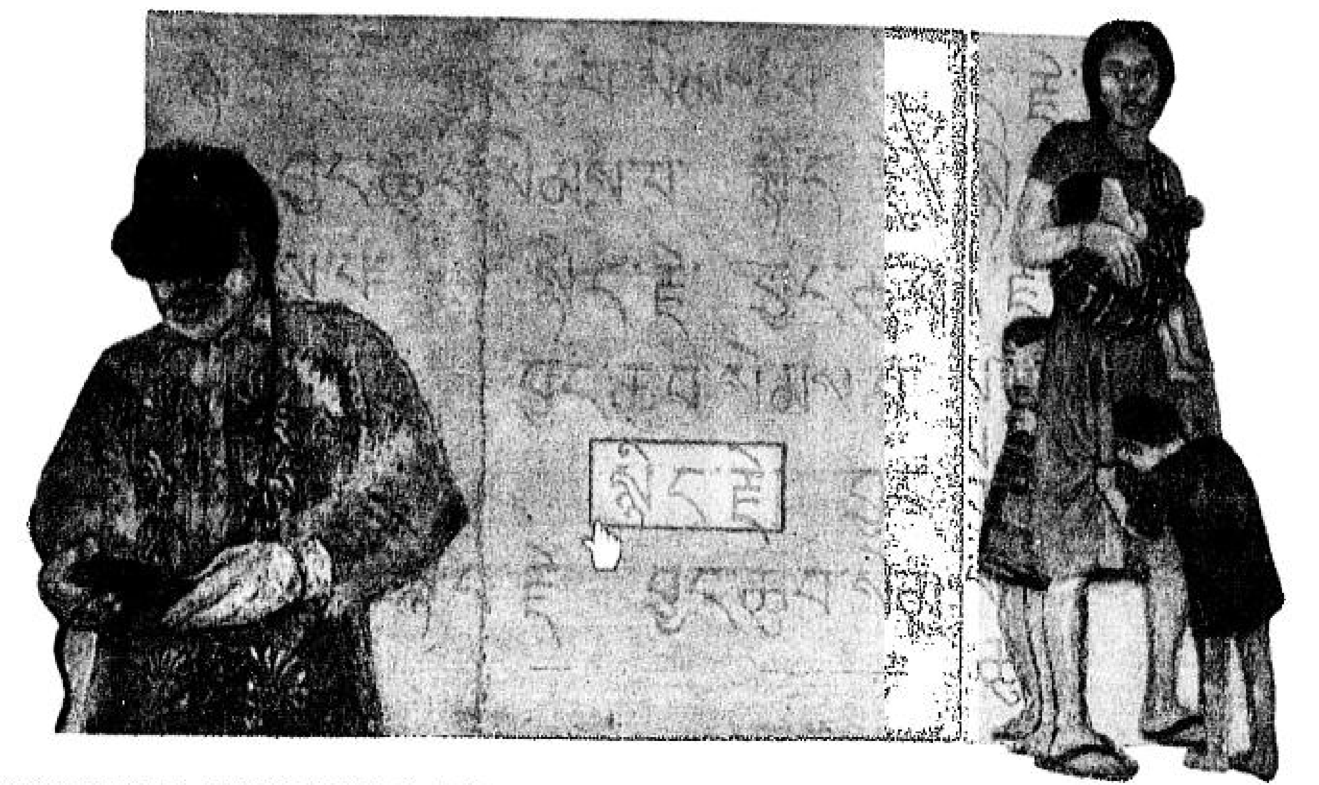
The first was an exhibit of still lifes in acrylic, charming images of Oriental pottery and foliage, held at the Finale Art Gallery in SM Megamall early last month. The second is the simply titled "Recent Prints," ongoing until Nov. 7 at The Drawing Room in Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

Though living abroad for over two decades now, for the longest time in Paris and with brief stays in Hong Kong and Vietnam, she never forgets her Filipino-ness. In fact, she returns to the country of her birth every year for a respite and to hold an exhibit or two.

Asked about her being no longer a Filipino citizen, she seems a bit startled, then replies in an undertone: "Does that make much difference? It's just easier to travel if you have a French passport."

The Filipino-ness is most apparent in the 21 color etchings on zinc plates and collages of handmade paper lavishly displayed at The Drawing Room. The imagery, iconography and politics, though blended with Eastern religious motifs, are resolutely Pinoy.

Here she applies the color viscosity printing technique she mastered in Paris, which simultaneously registers several colors, to depict a bleak world of silly politics, grinding poverty and blind faith. Yet it is also a vibrant world of children at their games and adults forever hoping for prosperity and salvation.



"VISIONS OF A BODHISATTVA," etching

Bold juxtaposition

In "Old Soldiers," 34 cm x 53 cm, Justice resplendent in gold and a red cape draws a sword amid two rows of veterans waiting on benches The background is a giant Philippine flag scrawled with inscriptions that read: *Loyalty, Integrity, Courage...*

"Visions of a Bodhisattva," 33 cm x 53 cm, shows on one side a rural mother huddling with her three children, in violet, blue and green, while on the other side is President Erap in olive *barong*, fiddling with the button panel of the PlayStation. Between them is an orange background scrawled with Tibetan script, the word meaning "compassion" highlighted in gold.

"My Heart's Desire," 39 cm x 41 cm, has a family, also in violet, blue and green, squatting on an olive ground in front of red panels which read: *Power, Diploma, Love & Marriage, Salvation, House & Lot, Green Card, Lotto, Bb. Pilipinas, Family.* A panel in the topmost corner reads: *Click Choice.* The pensive mother has an hourglass, the father has a hoe, while the teenagers are lighting candles for their wishes to come true. The background is a blazing orange, while a violet dragon above stretches across the frame.

In "PlayStation," 41 cm x 49 cm, three girls in brown, red and violet are playing *luksong tinik* on the blue TV monitor, which is bordered by sketches of traditional Filipino children's games such as *lastiko, gagamba, julens, salagubang, tumbang preso, piko.* The blank space surrounding the monitor is punctuated by the PlayStation's button panel and the red *bato* of the game kick.

These etchings are the artist's recent version of the game series in which she boldly juxtaposes traditional games with electronic ones. Some decades ago she had images from the Apocalypse contained in the pinball machine.

Slight variations

Another series in the exhibit is the *estampita* prints, which depict the Virgin Mary in various assumptions and stages of her life, but in Philippine setting and native costumes: "Anunciacion," "Natividad," "Presentacion," the Nuestra Señora de Buen Viaje, Nuestra Señora de Soledad, Nuestra Señora de la Leche, Nuestra Señora del Carmen, the Divina Pastora.

These are miniatures made to look like old prints, complete with cracked or yellowing surface. In a viewer's mind they have the effect of scapulars, recalling the artist's paintings on silk of amulets and *gayuma* in the early 1980s.

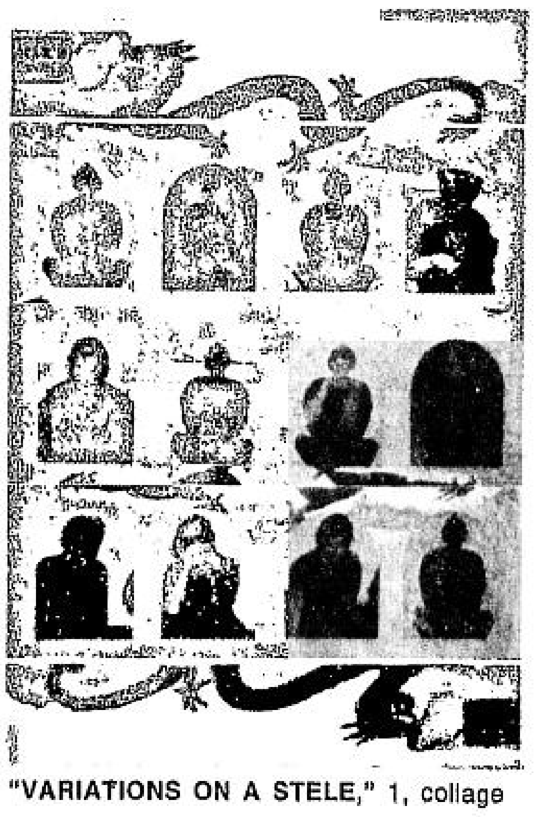
A seascape series is "May 12" I-V. The pieces, described as "a small and charming suite," show variations on blue and green silhouettes of islets on a bay, between lightening sky and reflecting water. These must be scenes from the artist's stay in Vietnam.

Then there are the collages, "Variations on a Stele" 1-4, paper cutouts of the Bodhisattva and other figures from the previous prints, pasted on the numerous arches of a stele. Slight variations in color combination and image juxtaposition change the tone and idea from piece to piece.

Of the various mediums she has worked in, Tequi does fastest with acrylic. She says she can finish an acrylic piece in two hours. With etching, she can turn up only one piece in 1-2 months.

It is tedious work, and she explains how the zinc plate is covered with varnish, then soaked in acid, and so on. That's why it took her two years to come up with this relatively small exhibit.

Last Wednesday the artist flew home to Paris. But, like a homing pigeon, surely, next year in Manila.



"VARIATIONS ON A STELE," 1, collage

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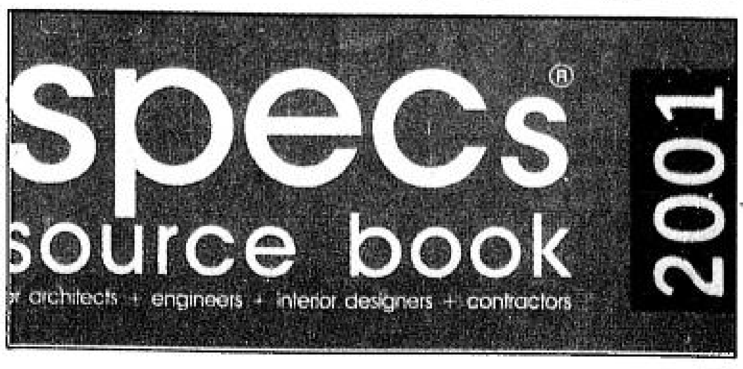
Zone Camera Club show

IN CELEBRATION of 23 years of existence, Zone Five Camera Club invites the public to view "Pinagmulan: Ang Pagbabalik-tanaw sa Ating Pinagmulan."

A photo exhibit of various images at the Glorietta 4 Mall, Ayala Center, on Nov. 1-14, it consists of various photographs that remind us of our roots: scenes from the provinces, quaint old houses and churches, rustic land and seascapes, the rural life, our heritage remembered, tracing the roots of our ancestry as a people with diverse cultural backgrounds.

Zone Five Camera Club is one of the country's most prominent camera clubs. One hundred-and-eighty photographic prints are on display.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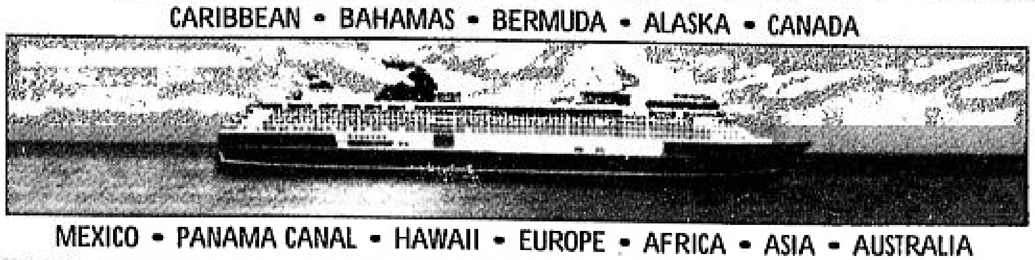

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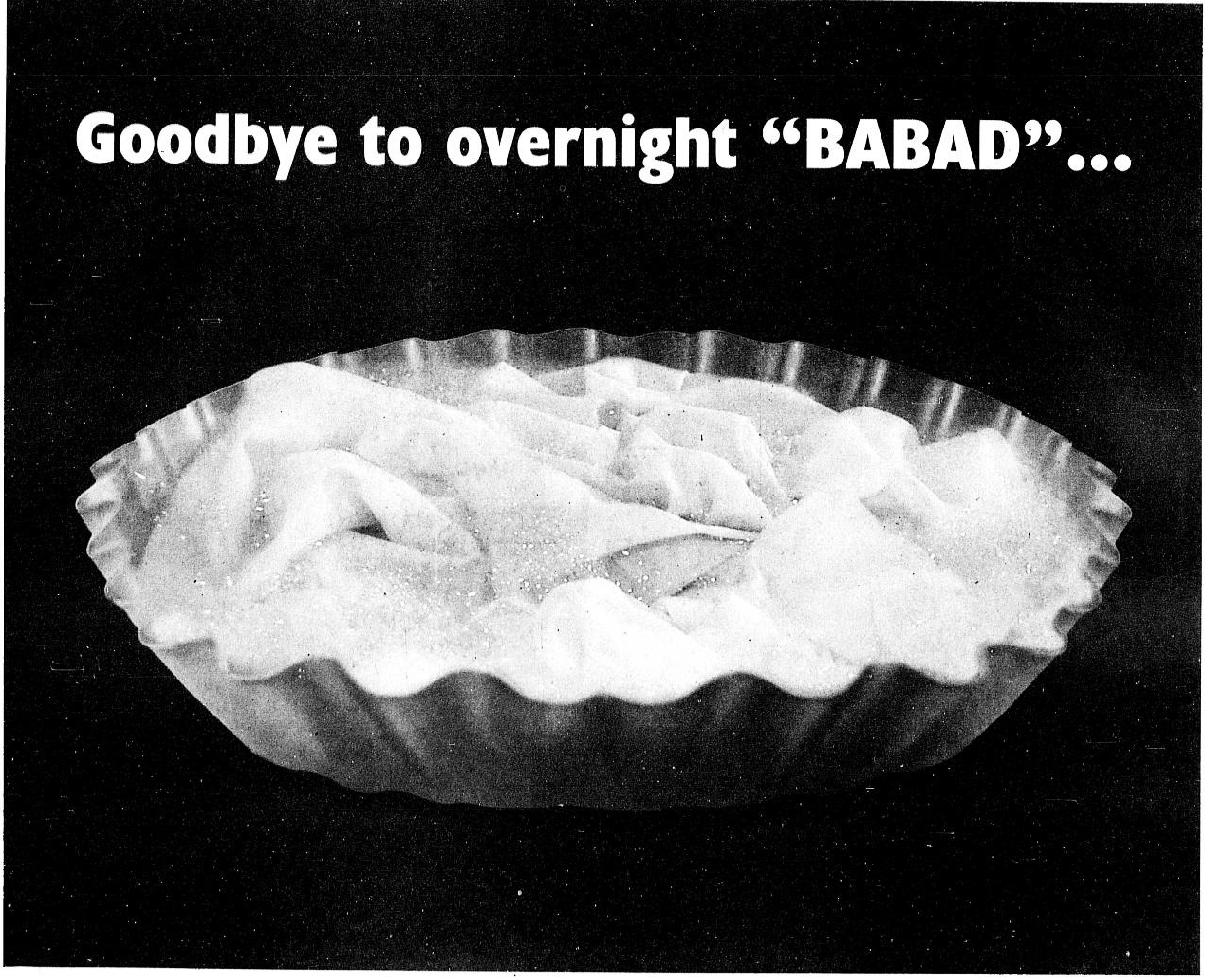


New architecture in Berlin

(From page D1)

the appropriate collection of contemporary architectural icons by the major architects of the world. The new buildings displayed the prosperity and political strength of the reunited German nation.

The symbolism of the new buildings is power.

Architecture of power is nothing new. Napoleon III did it in Paris when he commissioned Baron Hausmann to carve the network of broad boulevards that traversed the city. Red Square in Moscow and Tienanmen Square in Beijing are urban spaces that symbolize the power of the state.

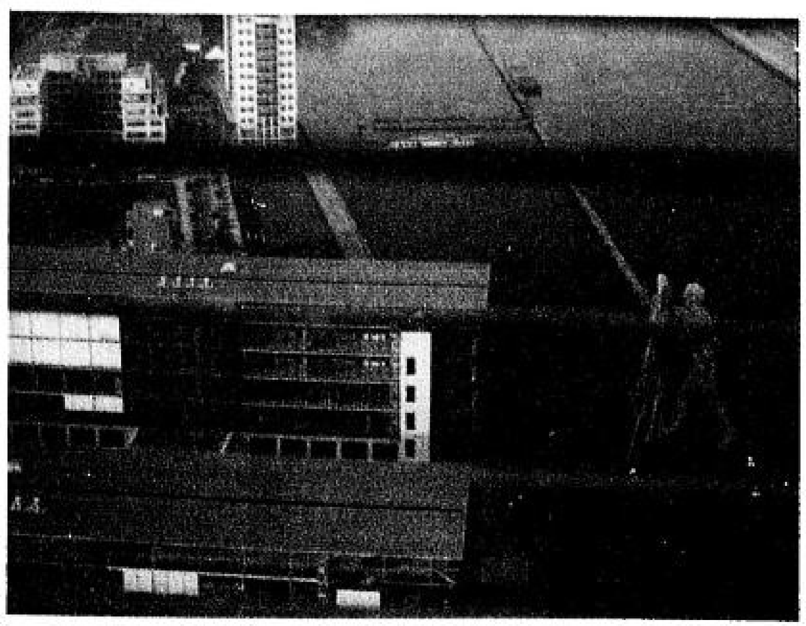
Philippine case

In the Philippines, the Spanish introduced an architecture of stone to a people who were used to building disposable bamboo-and-thatch dwellings so that their churches, government structures and houses would reflect the European ideal of permanence. Much of the stone structures have endured to this day although the preservation of the fragile structures for the future is not assured.

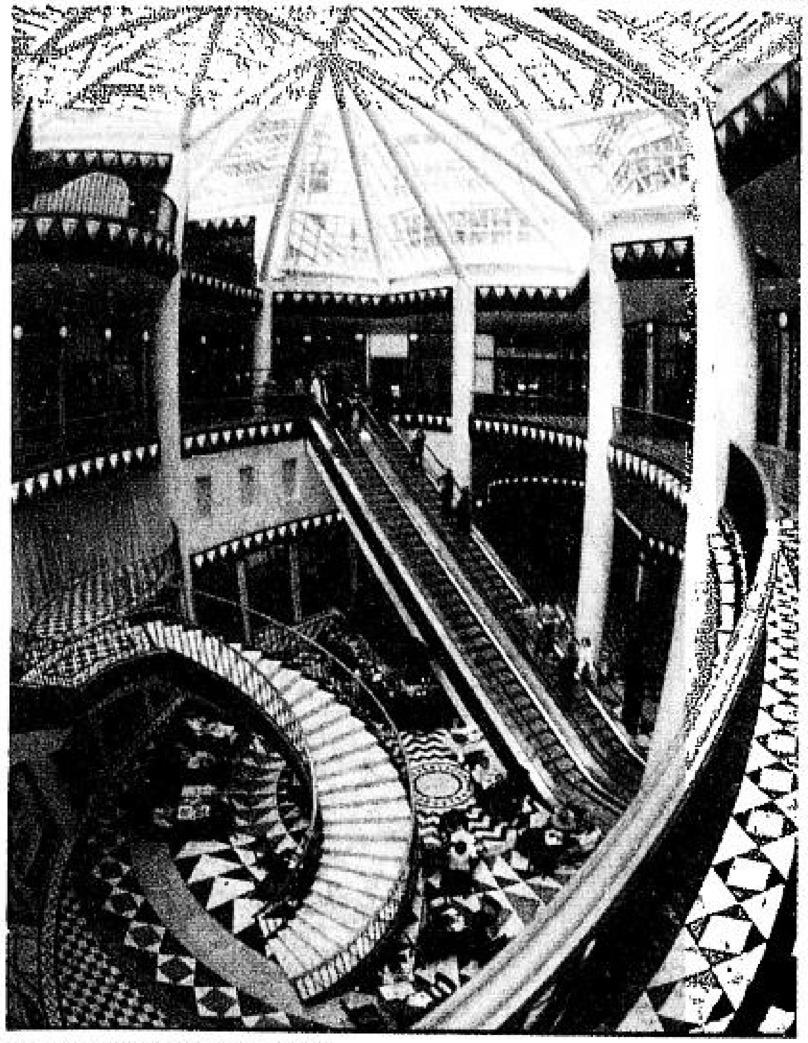
When the Americans took over from the Spanish, one of the first things they did was to bring the noted American planner, Daniel Burnham, to the Philippines to carve out America's image in Manila and Baguio. Burnham produced a Plan for Manila where sections of the city were to be linked by a system of parks, boulevards, with the Pasig and navigable *esteros* being part of the transportation system.

The American period was not without its architectural icons. The era gave us the seaside complex of the Luneta, Manila Hotel and Army Navy Club, which were anchored on the opposite end of the park by the present National Museum (formerly Department of Finance) and Tourism Buildings. Taft Avenue in Manila proclaimed the American vision for the Philippines: efficient postal service (Manila Post Office), improved education (Philippine Normal School) and competent public health service (Philippine General Hospital).

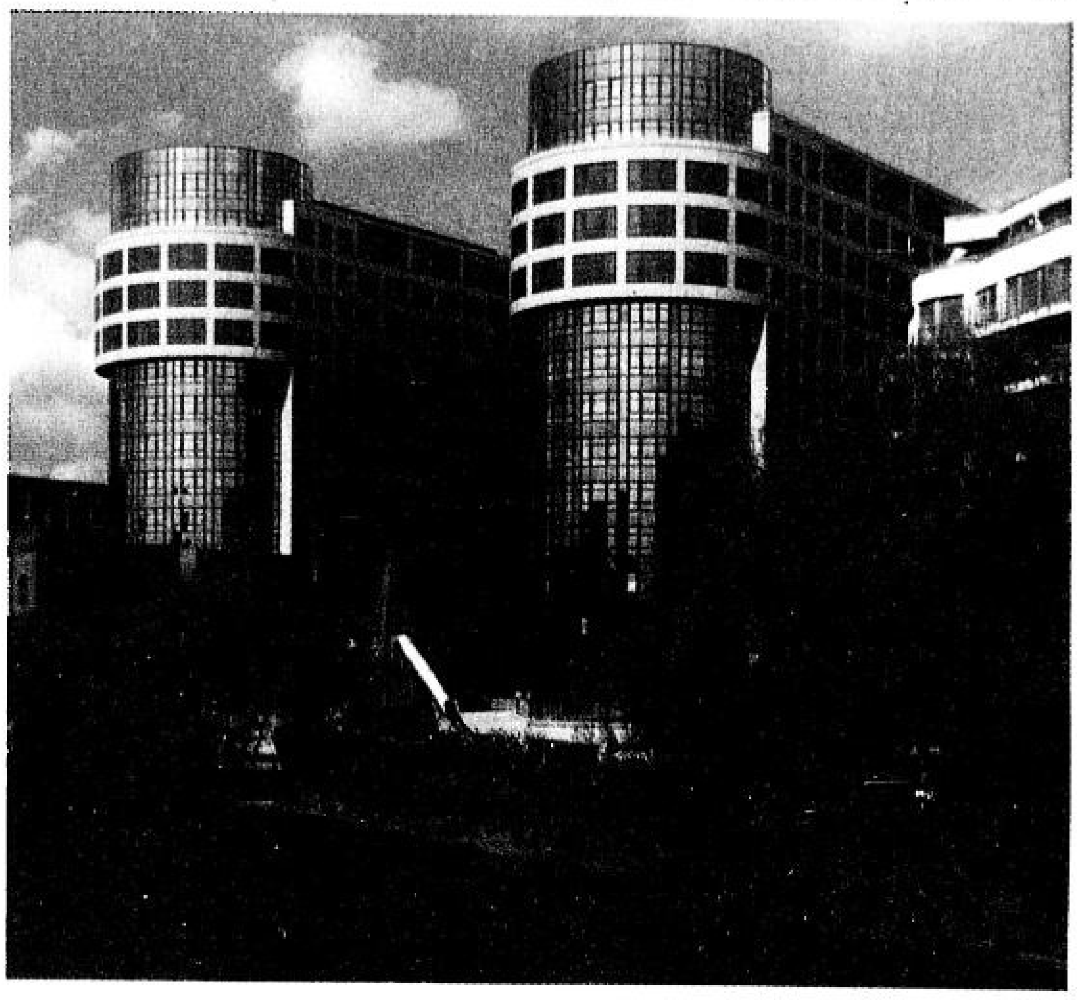
In the same way that architecture demonstrates how the Philippines moved from its pre-Hispanic days through the Spanish period



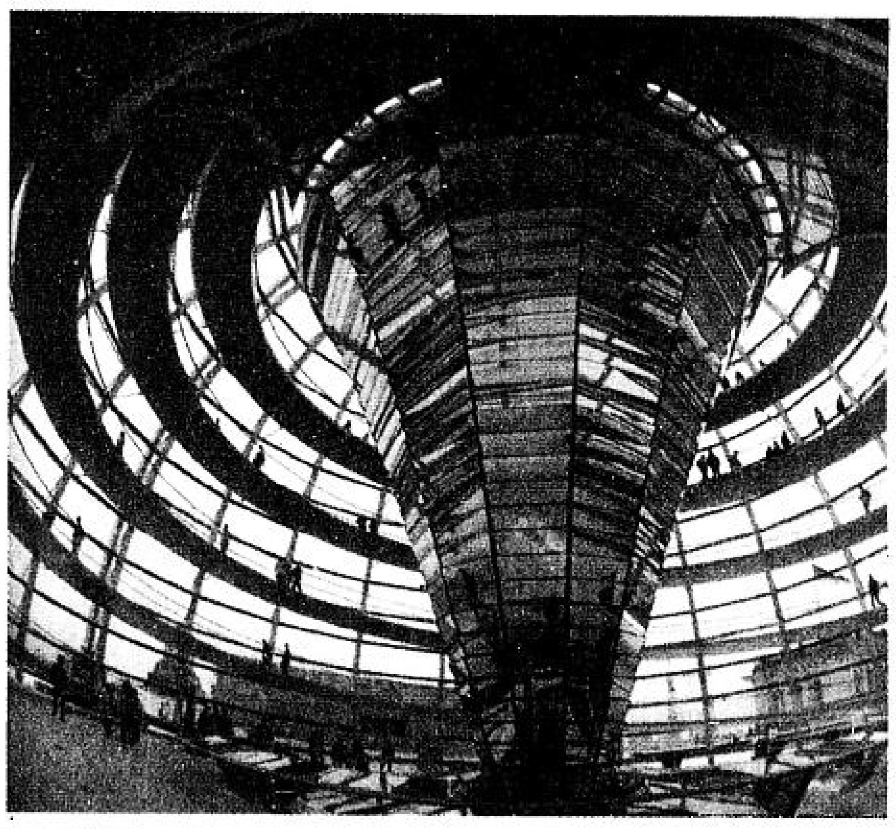
VIEW from the Treptowers toward the Oberbaumbrücke (Oberbaumbridge)



FRIEDRICHSTADT Passage



FEDERAL Ministry of the Interior



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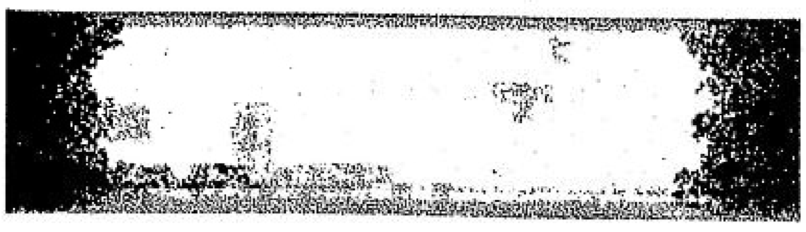

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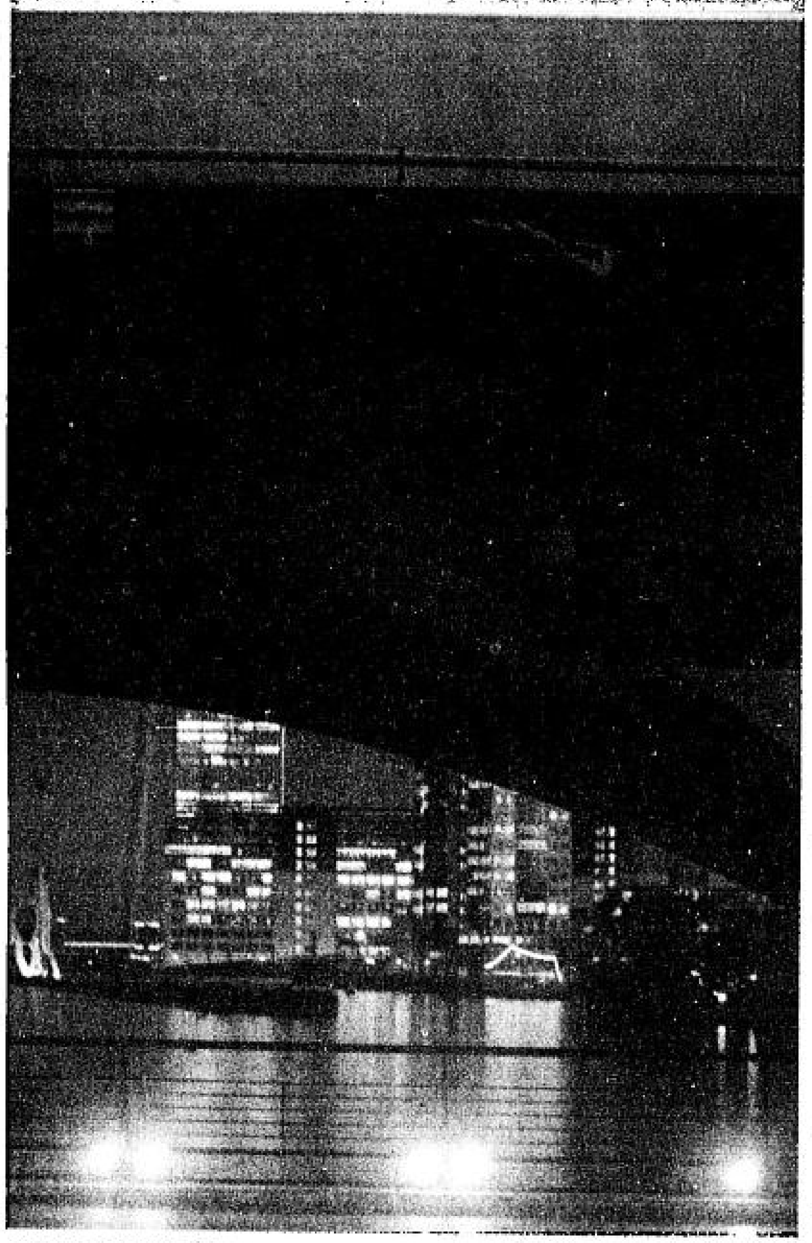

OBERBAUMBRÜCKE by night

and into the American period before achieving its independence, the new architecture of Berlin tells of its transformation from a once divided city and its aspiration to evolve into a vital global center.

The exhibition of new buildings in Berlin was an architectural tour de force, a series of beautifully photographed images with the strong message that Berlin is back in business.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph

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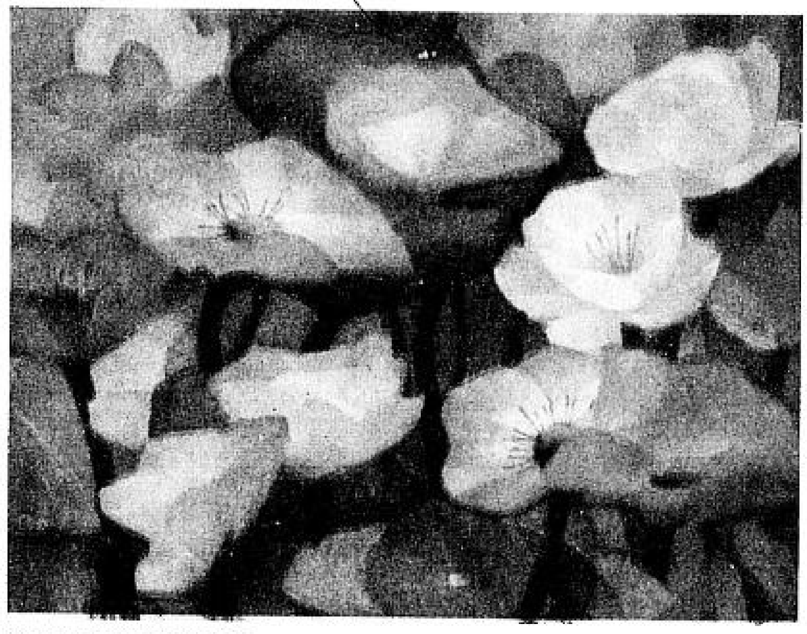
JAMES ONGLEPHO

A life fully devoted to art

JAMES Onglepho



"SHARING 2001-56"

INTERVIEW BY MARIE ANNE I. FAJARDO

JAMES Onglepho welcomes the 21st century with renewed artistic fervor and a new show—his 21st solo—at the Asia Art Gallery in Shangri-La Plaza Mall starting Nov. 8. He is bent on continuing what he has been doing: "I have always wanted to express myself through the subjects of my paintings."

Onglepho says his annual solos at the Asia Art Gallery, owned and managed by his daughter-in-law Annabelle, are his way of thanking everyone who has inspired and motivated him through the years—mentors, art enthusiasts and collectors, fellow artists, friends and family. They have stood by him to become the painter that he has always wanted to be. He recently sat down to explain why choosing a life of painting was the best decision he had ever made.

How would you describe your life as a painter?

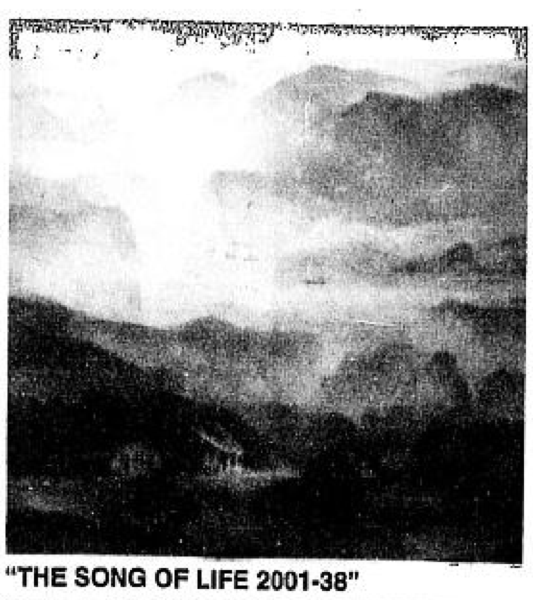
I have chosen to become a painter and I'm glad I did. I have trained in violin for six years, yet I decided to choose fine arts over music. By choosing painting I know I can work on improving until later in life. Even after nearly 50 years I still delight in creating new images on the canvas, straight from breakfast and after a brief lunch break, until the rest of the afternoon. My life is very simple, though nonetheless abundant. At night I choose to read up on art. For a long time, this is the kind of life that I have been seeking—a life fully devoted to art.

Do you have time for socializing at all?

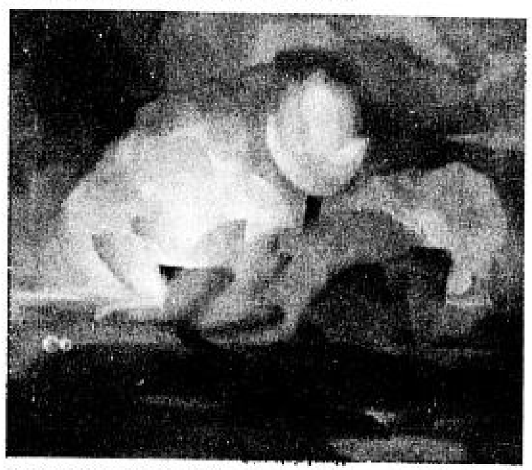
In the last few years I decided to concentrate on painting and refrained from engaging in other social activities. Long-time artist-friend Malang would often ask me out to breakfast. He would call me as early as 6:30 a.m. and by 7, I would already be in his house. Over breakfast we would talk about painting, art issues and politics. Malang often mentions how thankful he is to artists Vicente Manansala and Cesar Legaspi, whose works drove art collectors to continue collecting art. *Parang sila ang nagtatanim ng halaman, at kami ang nasa* shade.

Malang, a Born-Again Christian, would also bring up religion and give me the Bible to read. I often read up on both Christianity and Buddhism, teaching me gratitude and charity, but I still feel I am not qualified to join Malang in his faith. I feel I am just learning to find out how it is to forgive. I assure him though that I do set aside some time to read the Bible every day.

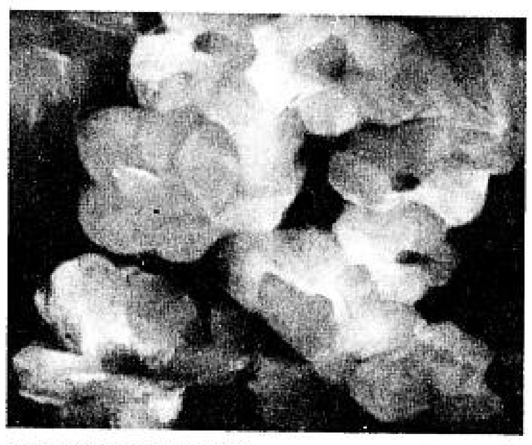
Every Thursday also, our Chopsticks buddies Malang and Bungian and friends Ophie and Janice, meet at Asia Art Gallery for lunch.



"THE SONG OF LIFE 2001-38"



"LOTUS 2001-48"



"SHARING 2001-33"

How did you develop your painting style?

Noong umalis ako sa UST, 1958, I started developing my style, which was different from my mentors'—from Prof. Victorio Edades' and Gabriel Custodio's colors compositions and brushstrokes.

While writing "Contemporary French Painting" and "The History of Chinese Landscape Painting," I began to know more about Western and Chinese masters. I then developed my own style. Moved by music, be it classical Chinese or Filipino, I have learned to use both my emotion and instinct in drafting my own paintings.

How do you express your feelings through painting?

I paint what I feel, expressing the inner beauty of my subject matter and the spirit of the union of nature and man. When I paint the mountain I'm not only painting its surface form but also abstract shapes to express the feeling of light falling on the mountain.

I choose to paint the lotus not because it is a favorite subject matter in Chinese painting, but because of my emotion toward it. It grows in dirty environments but it remains very clean. Every step of the way [from the budding to the blossoming lotus] they are nice to look at, and even more captivating to paint.

For me, each painting is a new experience. I find myself in a state of mingling with the outside world even if I'm painting in the studio. Working in the studio gives me more freedom and more opportunities to develop ideas—nay, realms of creation and personification. I am a Filipino painter influenced by Chinese culture.

Besides holding one-man exhibits every year, what are your other plans?

Late last year, when Malang and I attended the Taipei art festival, we met the publisher of the art magazine where I used to work as a staff member. There I wrote about Filipino artists Victorio Edades, H.R. Ocampo, Manansala and Malang. The publisher showed me a number of books that he had published recently. After seeing them I remembered going back to writing my autobiography. I started writing my autobiography in Chinese last March 16. By April 20, I had written 160,000 words on the AAP in its early years, Mabini artists and the top Filipino artists in the last three decades. When I mentioned it to Malang, he suggested that it could very well be a firsthand witness account to Philippine art from the middle to the late 20th century.

Sa loob ng buhay ko, marami na ang nangyari sa akin na habang buhay di ko malilimutan. At marami ring close friends *sa tabi ko na di ko rin malilimutan.* I should also include them in my autobiography.

Goy at Finale, Diaz at Duemila, Aguas at West

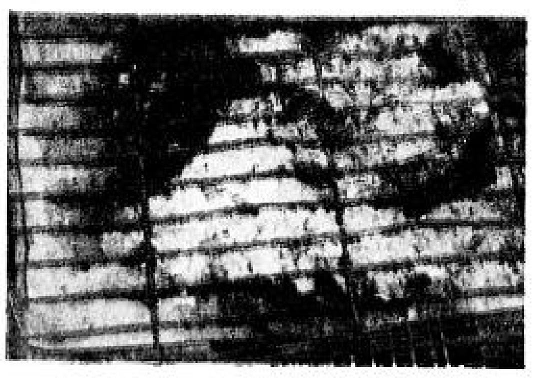
ANNA Mari Goy presents her latest one-woman show at the Finale Art Gallery (4/L, Building A, SM Megamall) until Nov. 11. This impressionist depicts an idyllic paradise of flowers, green lawns and lakes.

DIAZ AT GALLERIA DUEMILA. Paying tribute to his lifelong fascination for the sea and the lives beneath all bodies of water, Ramon Diaz captures in delicate oil on canvas the very essence of the koi in his latest exhibit at Galleria Duemila (4/L, Building A, SM Megamall) on Nov. 7-22. Call 633-6687 or 634-3261.

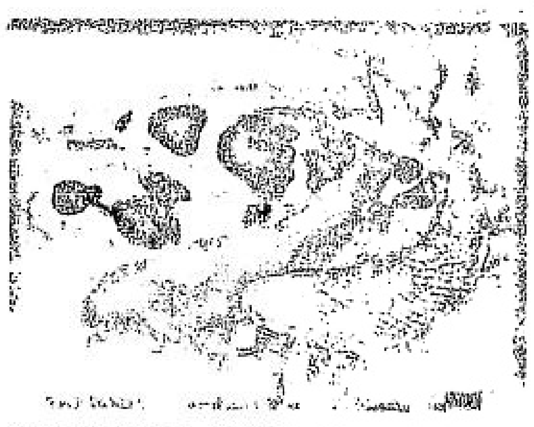
VISUAL ARTS

AS AT WEST GALLERY. Bart Aguas ys his artistry in his first one-man exhibit, Art, at the West Gallery (3/L, Glorietta 4, akati City) on Nov. 6-13. National Artist Napoleon C. Abueva is guest of honor at cocktails on Nov. 6. Call 722-9986 or 726-7164.

SERGIO AT GREEN PAPAYA. Brian Sergio opens his solo exhibit dubbed "Small Works After Spontaneous Combustions" today at the Green Papaya (Unit 304, Sterten Place Condominium, 116 Maginhawa St., Teachers Villa East, QC). Sergio has been exploring medi like glass and ready-made objects to depict the idea of a box within a box, or a container within a container. Works in his exhibit depict the process of combustion that produces images by chance. Call 927-3187.



ASHES FROM BURNED PAINT CANS" by Brian Sergio at Green Papaya



"THE GOLDEN ONE" by Ramon Diaz at Galeria Duemila

ROJAS AT GALLERY 139. Stella Rojas will mount her 27th one-woman show at Gallery 139 (SM Megamall) on Nov. 8. Dubbed "Lovers and Gardens," the exhibit runs until Nov. 20.

HERRERA AT FINALE. Susan Herrera will mount her first one-woman show, "Scented Landscapes," at the Finale Art Gallery (4/L, SM Megamall), Nov. 13-25.

OLAZO AT DRAWING ROOM. Jonathan Olazo, one of the country's leading young abstractionists and a recipient of the Cultural Center of the Philippines' 13 Artists Award, is holding an exhibit of rubbercut prints in black and white at The Drawing Room (Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City) until Nov. 7. Call 897-6990 or 897-7877.

SYCIP AT THE CRUCIBLE. Alan SyCip presents his latest works at the Crucible Gallery (SM Art Center, 4/F, Building A, SM Megamall). Dubbed "Homecoming," the show runs until Nov. 12. Call 635-6061.

MAGSAYSAY-HO AT THE CRUCIBLE. Anita Magsaysay-Ho presents her latest works, fresh renditions of her signature subjects—women dressed in *baro't saya* and *bandana*, busy with their chores or caught amid beautiful blooms, birds and bountiful harvests. Dubbed "Four Paintings and a Sculpture," the exhibit will be on view at the Crucible Gallery (4/F SM Megamall) until Nov. 18. Call 635-6061.

LANDAYAN AT CAFFE ITALIANO. Panday Sining, an art studio and study center, continues its art exposition this month with "Heperung," a show by Val Landayan, at the Allegro Caffe Italiano (Glorietta 3, Ayala Center). The exhibit runs until Dec. 9.

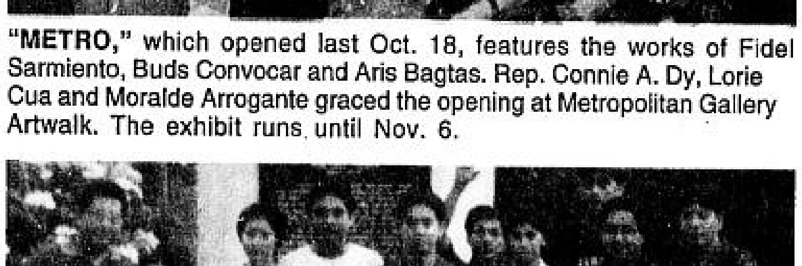
RUIZ AT WEST GALLERY. Painter and installation and performance artist Ronaldo Ruiz explores the many facets of pain in what he calls his "paintstallaction" pieces in "Ek-se-ku 'shun," at the West Gallery-SM Megamall on Nov. 8-20. Call 634-1284 or log on to www.westgallery.net.

NUDE EXHIBIT. The Bodybuilders Foundation Inc. presents a nude exhibit, "Man, the Masterpiece of God," at Arts Manila (5/F, Isetann Cinerama Complex, C. M. Recto Avenue, Manila). The exhibit runs until Dec. 2.

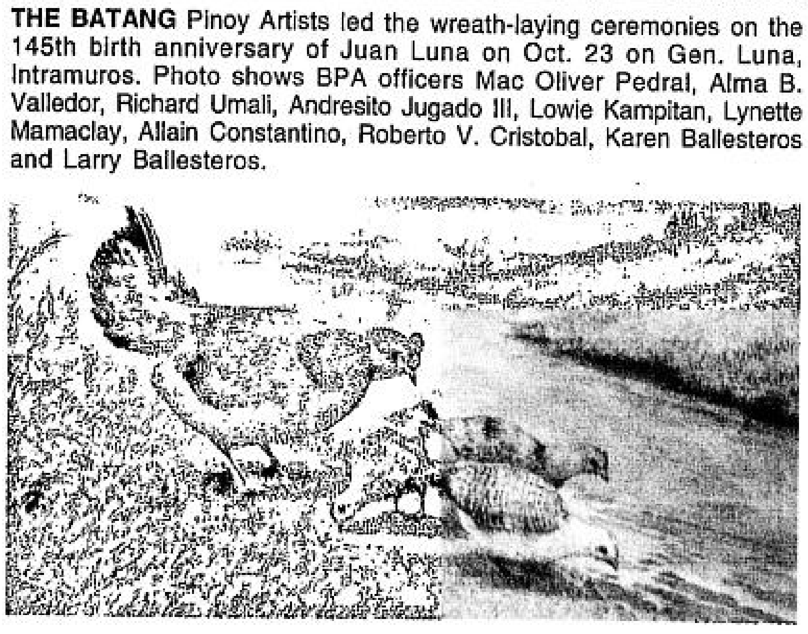
TROIKA AT BOSTON. "Tuhog" is a trilogy of solo exhibits by Salvador Joel Alonday, Karen Ocampo Flores and Noel Soler Cuizon. It is the debut presentation of Slash/Art Artists' Initiatives, a collective of visual artists working together to initiate a variety of independent art projects. The exhibit runs on Nov. 10-28 at the Boston Gallery (72 Boston St., Cubao, QC). Call 722-9205.

ART SHOWS AT GSIS MUSEUM. The GSIS Museum of Art presents "Permanent Collection," featuring the works of National Artists Jose Abueva, Botong Francisco, Fernando Amorsolo, Vicente Manansala and H.R. Ocampo, together with a dozen contemporary Filipino artists. Also on show are finalists and winners in the 54th Annual Art Competition of the Art Association of the Philippines. Also on exhibit is Limbag, a display of old prints from the collection of former GSIS president and general manager Federico Pascual. The museum is at the GSIS Building (Financial Center, Pasay City). Call 551-1301.

"METRO," which opened last Oct. 18, features the works of Fidel Sarmiento, Buds Convocar and Aris Bagtas. Rep. Connie A. Dy, Lorie Cua and Moralde Arrogante graced the opening at Metropolitan Gallery Artwalk. The exhibit runs until Nov. 6.



THE BATANG Pinoy Artists led the wreath-laying ceremonies on the 145th birth anniversary of Juan Luna on Oct. 23 on Gen. Luna, Intramuros. Photo shows BPA officers Mac Oliver Pedral, Alma B. Valledor, Richard Umali, Andresito Jugado III, Lowie Kampitan, Lynette Mamaclay, Allain Constantino, Roberto V. Cristobal, Karen Ballesteros and Larry Ballesteros.



"MOTHER HEN AND CHICKS" by Benny Buendia at Silahis Arts and Artifacts (3/F, Glorietta 4, Makati City). The exhibit runs until Nov. 28. Call 728-4961 or 527-2113.

ART COLLECTORS Edd and Malou Gaerlan (seated at center) celebrate their birthdays at the New Tai Woo Seafood Restaurant with some artists and friends. (Seated from right) National Artist Arturo Luz and wife Tessie, the hosts, daughters Kaye and Cathy Gaerlan. (Standing from right) sculptor Ramon Orlina and wife-lawyer Lay-Anne, Ne Miranda, Baby Miranda, Romulo Olazo, Mauro Malang Santos, Rene Robles and Mila Robles.

New art gallery

"MULA Noon...Hanggang Ngayon," an exhibit of 29 artists, opened at the new Visual Concepts Gallery at 580 Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Edsa), Malibay, Pasay City last Oct. 19 and will run until Nov. 19.

Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad and Rep. Connie Dy formally opened the exhibit.

Interior designer Emilie Y. Garcia, gallery owner and multiawarded artist, and gallery curator Paul Dimalanta said the exhibit tries to present a dramatic and interesting fusion of distinct styles in oil, pastel, acrylic and watercolor.

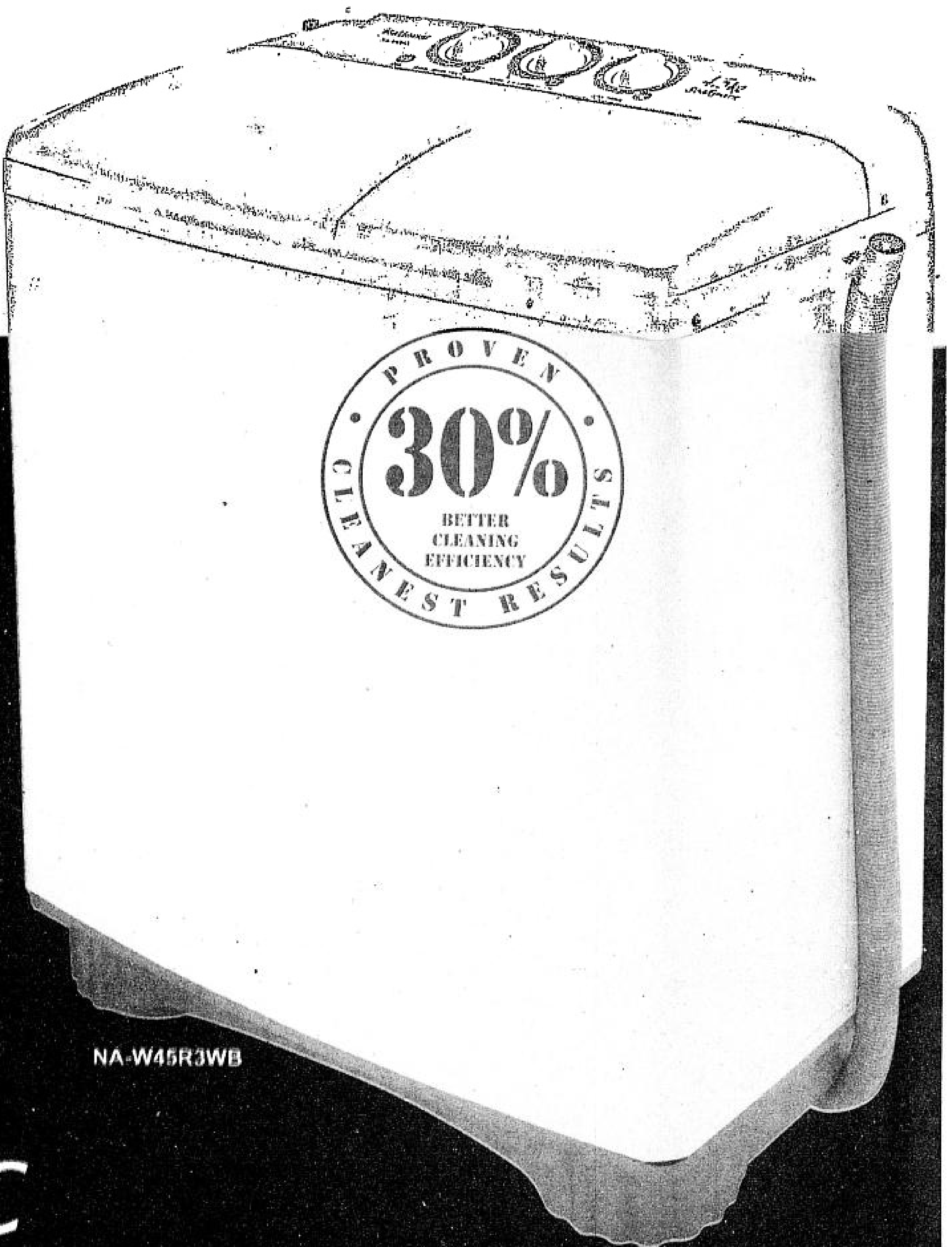
The participating artists include Paul Dimalanta, Leonardo "Nerds" Zepeda, Ed Oronos, Jose "Oying" Madrilejos, Vic Larosa, Rene Clemente, Danny Santiago, Nick Aranda, Jaime Medina, Bal Gando, Freddie Cruz, Noel Catacutan, Ver Ligan, Josephine Neffe, Alona Galeria, Rosie Molata, Alan Malunes, Marie Cascaro, Silvestre Obsuna, Perry Cruz, Rudy Lunod, Max Sumulong, Ernie Patricio, Carol Lee, Elmer Invento, Josephine Chang, Herzon de la Rosa, Rhea de la Rosa and Mar Bongalon.

"Mula Noon.... Hanggang Ngayon" is the second in a series of art exhibits to be mounted by Visual Concepts Gallery after their highly successful initial launch last month of "The Gathering," where art patroness, former senator Helena T. Benitez officiated at the opening rites. The show featured the works of Mariano Madarang, Paul Dimalanta, Raul Isidro, Eel Gajo, Raul Lebajo, Vincent Ramos, Robert Balajadia, Rafael Cusi, Carlos Gabuco, Maridel Coching, Rolando Yumang, Carlo Magno Tiausac, Benjie Blancaflor and Egay Roxas.

The new gallery will likewise offer Saturday art workshops and accept tutorials for professionals and beginners on drawing, watercolor and oil painting. Regular nude sessions will also be held every Sunday at 2-4 p.m.

Call 512-7800 or 512-7719 and look for Emilie Garcia or Paul Dimalanta.

New!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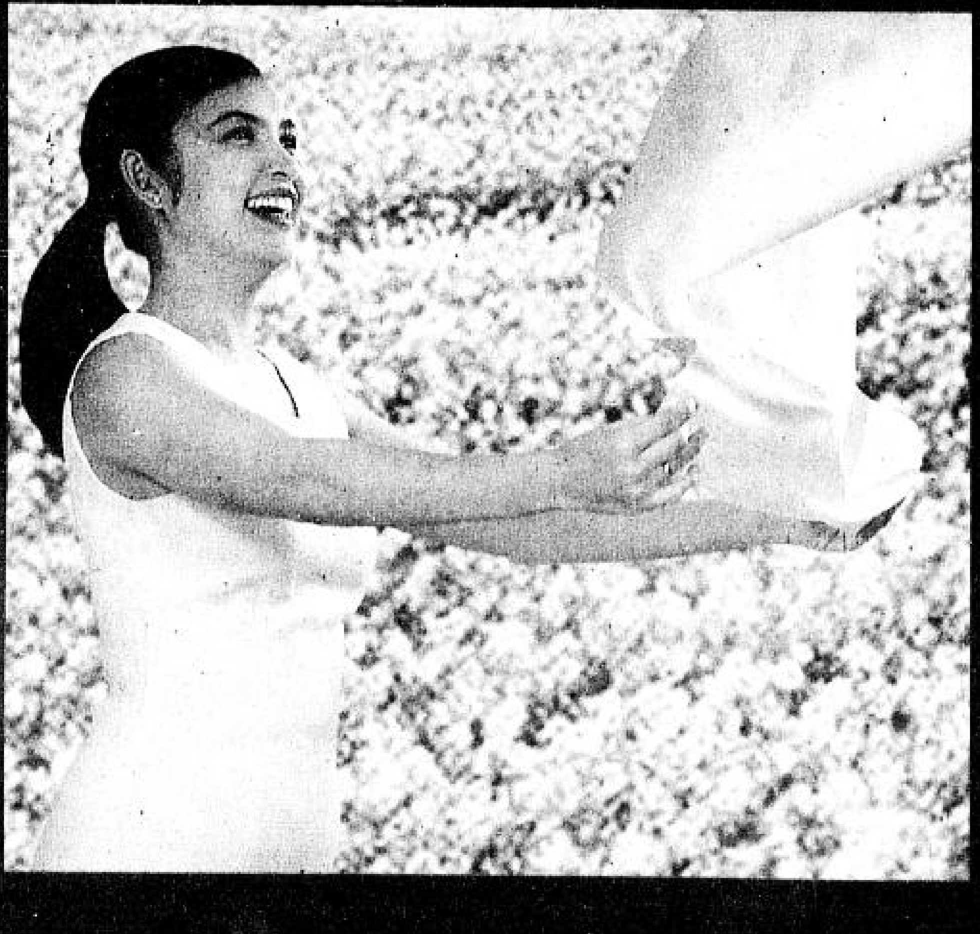

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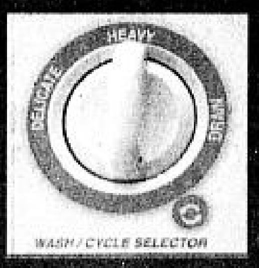
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EXCLUSIVE

‘Flower Drum Song’ blooms with praises

The brilliance of Rodgers and Hammerstein, the reworking by David Henry Hwang and the beautiful singing of Lea Salonga have conspired to make the restaging of the famous musical a success

LEA Salonga with David Henry Hwang

By Ruben V. Nepales
Photos By Janet Susan R. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—The first wave of reviews of “Flower Drum Song” makes this revision of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical at the Mark Taper Forum bloom with praises and guarantees it full-house performances until Dec. 2.

Variety, the bible of the entertainment industry, was the most effusive in its acclaim of the show, which opened on Oct. 14. Steven Oxman began

FLOWER/p.E2

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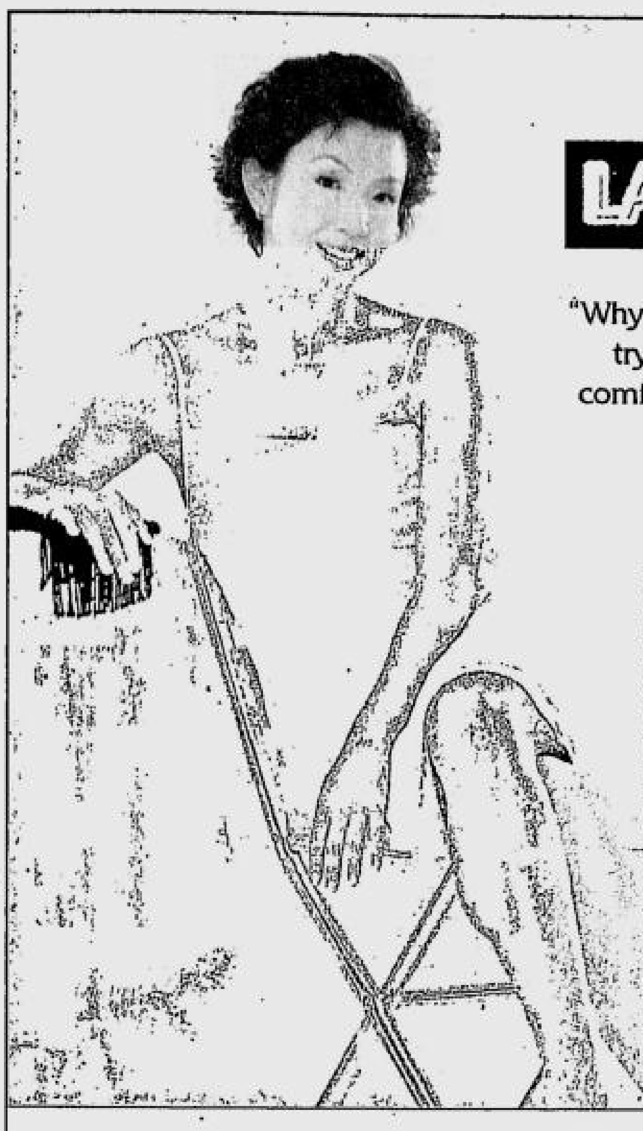

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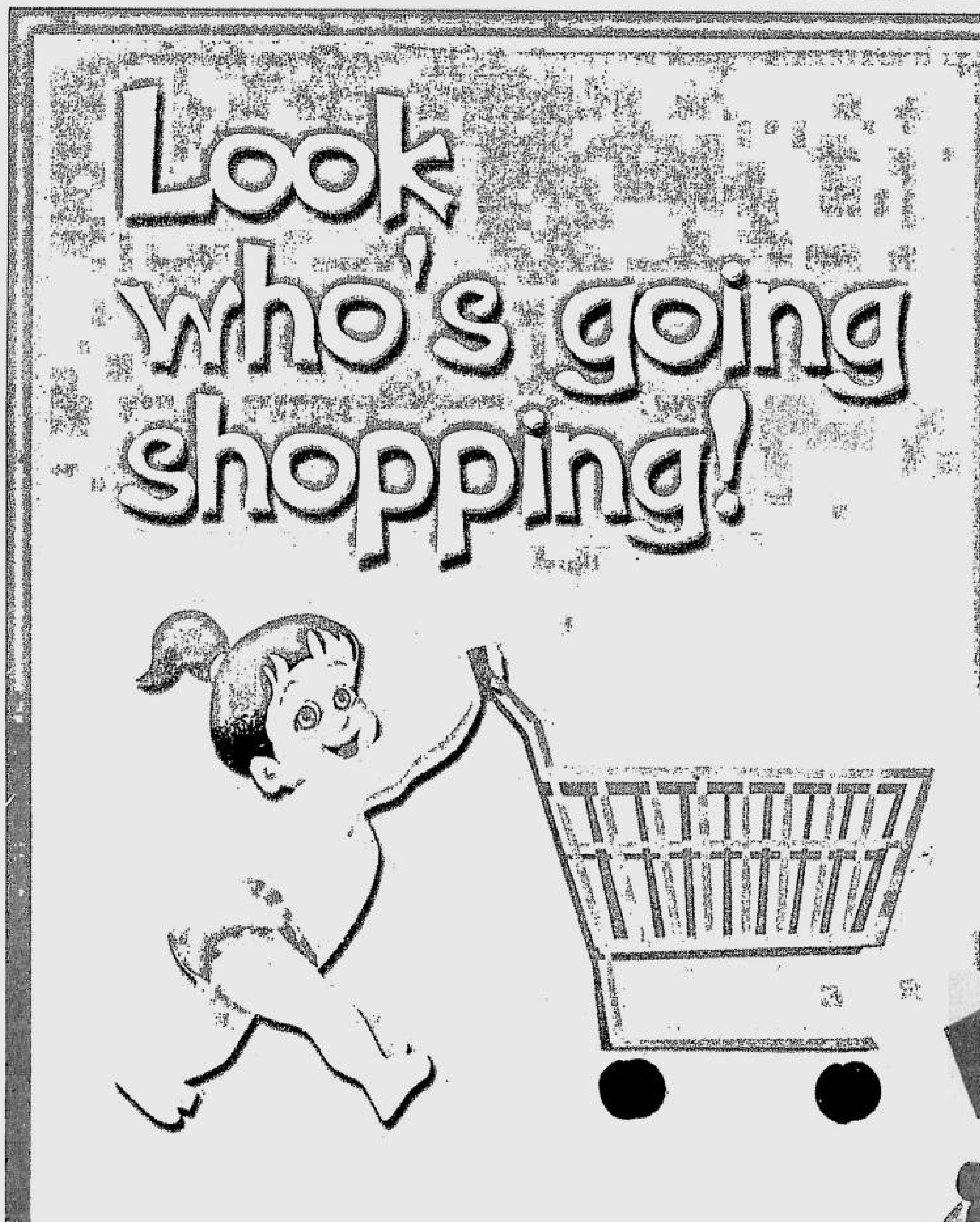
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SALONGA (second from right) with (from left) the author, Mark Cagatao Jentes, Janet Susan R. Nepales, Rosemary Nepales Clubb, Tessie Aquino, Flora Ramos, Leah Salterio, Shirley Pizarro and Ciso Chan of BMG Records, Salonga's record label in Manila which recently released her "Songs from the Screen" CD.

"FILIPINO power!" proudly exclaims this group before they smile for this group photo: Hwang and cast members Salonga, Charlene Carabeo, Jose Llana, Jennifer Paz and Robert Pendilla.

'Flower Drum Song' blooms with praises

(From page E1)

his review with this paragraph: "Many older musicals go in for a refreshing face-lift, but this version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'Flower Drum Song,' with a spanking new book by David Henry Hwang, is a lot closer to wholesale reconstructive surgery. This bold theatrical operation, five years in the making, must be deemed an artistic success, revealing a revitalized score and a dramatic complexion that's far richer than the original. This patient brings new meaning to the term revival, and it's too compelling an effort to imagine that it wouldn't make it to Broadway."

A portion of Oxman's review conclusion read: "The entire evening is excellent musically, with the small six-member orchestra not limiting things at all. (Lea) Salonga's voice is as pure as ever, and (Jose) Llana demonstrates vocal abilities at the same level."

New dish

Los Angeles Times, one of the major newspapers in the United States, headlined its review with "A Classic Flowers Anew." Theater critic Michael Phillips compared "Flower Drum Song" with Salonga's well-known stage blockbuster: "Totalitarian repression, cheesecake and Lea Salonga: These were the primary ingredients of the pop gruel known as 'Miss Saigon.' The ingredients have been recombined for a new dish. It's 'Flower Drum Song,' wholly revised and gleefully self-aware, at the Mark Taper Forum.

"A few tons shy of a mega-musical, no fake helicopter here, no power ballads saccharine enough to stop communism dead in its tracks—it's a raffishly entertaining response to the 1958 original."

Phillips raised a few quibbles but he commented, "such questions tend to dissolve whenever Salonga is singing. For all its nutty contradictions, and ultimately because of them, 'Flower Drum Song' succeeds."

Show business' other trade paper, The Hollywood Reporter, chimed in with a similarly favorable review. Jay Reiner declared in his opening paragraph, "Never underestimate the power of a good writer to bring a flawed musical back from the near-dead. That's what David Henry Hwang has done for Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'Flower Drum Song,' a show that had been languishing in limbo for more than 40 years."

Of the Philippines' shining international star, Reiner gave this verdict: "Salonga sings like an angel." He ended his review with, "All things considered, it's a pleasure to have 'Flower Drum' back, especially with so many tasty new treats up its silken sleeve."

Enthusiastic

The most enthusiastic acclaim for Salonga came from Evan Henerson, theater critic of Los Angeles' other daily newspaper, Daily News. Henerson wrote, "Most closely resembling her counterpart from the original, Mei-Li in Hwang's version has finally escaped the confines of the character's pidgin-English-spouting shrinking violethood. As embodied by Salonga—whose voice has only gotten richer since her days in 'Miss Saigon'—the character now has a backbone. Her eyes flash with determination when she's singing about 'A Hundred Million Miracles.' During her first en-

FLOWER/p.E3

TWO "Miss Saigon" originals, Salonga and Jennifer Paz, who was Kim in the Los Angeles production. Salonga and Paz briefly share a song in "Flower Drum Song," which Daily News theater critic Evan Henerson describes as "a gorgeous scene, true to everything that has preceded it, one more little miracle in a production positively full of them."

NANCY Kwan with (from left) Janet Susan R. Nepales, Mario Ramos, BMG Records' Ciso Chan, Rosemary Nepales Clubb and Mark Cagatao Jentes

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‘Flower Drum Song’ blooms with praises

(From page E2)

counter with Wang and Ta at the Golden Pearl Opera House in San Francisco’s Chinatown, Mei-Li picks up a bamboo pole and holds her own executing the battle scene of the Flower Boat Maiden. Still a bit naive, Mei-Li has a few lessons for Ta and vice versa.”

Henerson continued with kudos for other members of the cast: “Linda Low (Sandra Allen), the hottest dish on the nightclub circuit, also has assimilation issues, even if Hwang’s plotting doesn’t always seem to know where she fits in. Mentor, vamp and social climber, Linda primarily exists to perform—to turn an audience into wolves—and in this endeavor, the sultry Allen excels. The numbers ‘Fan Tan Fannie’ and ‘Enjoy Being a Girl’ sizzle even as they spoof. The ‘backstage musical’ context also allows Hwang to get comic relief from Madame Liang (Jodi Long), an Ethel Merman-esque agent, and from Harvard (Allen Liu), Linda’s effete dresser.”

SALONGA and venerable theater figure Gordon Davidson, Center Theater group’s artistic director

Henerson also lauded the talents off the stage: “Under the sure hand of director/choreographer Robert Longbottom, the production’s musical numbers fit the Taper’s intimate confines more than adequately. Visually, Longbottom owes a substantial debt to his creative team, particularly costume designer Gregg Barnes, who has recreated the look of 1950s Chinatown as well as the traditional garb of a much earlier era. Robin Wagner’s nightclub facade set is occasionally draped over or hidden for scenes in other locales.”

Week’s pick

LA Weekly selected “Flower Drum Song” as its theater “Pick of the Week.” Steven Leigh Morris wrote, “David Henry Hwang’s reframing of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein’s musical contains a hundred million miracles. The gaudily majestic spectacle of Robert Longbottom’s staging entertains relentlessly—thanks also to Gregg Barnes’ jaw-dropping exotic costumes. With David Chase’s orchestrations and arrangements, under Charles duChateau’s musical direction, Rodgers’ score has never sounded so good, and among the company’s honed voices, Salonga wraps around you like a swath of silk.”

Paul Hodgins, in his review for The Orange County Register, stated, “Hwang couldn’t have hoped for a better cast. Lea Salonga owns the best voice. Jose Llana brings unexpected comic qualities to Ta. And Tzi Ma’s Wang is delightful. Jack Soo would have approved of his Elvis-haired, flamboyantly tasteless Sammy.”

Hodgins recommended a Great White Way engagement for the show: “A Broadway run is rumored, and that seems like a good idea; this show will benefit from a large proscenium venue. The Taper’s awkward thrust stage makes everything seem cramped and a bit clumsy. Hwang’s strangely appealing creation has all the earmarks of a Broadway crowd-pleaser—let’s hope it finds its wings.”

Nancy Kwan

Most critics watched the show in a recent press night, which was followed by a private party of former and present cast members. “Flower Drum Song” is the only show staged in Broadway whose members reunite regularly. Most of the former cast members stood out with their leis when they watched the show and during the party. Two actors from the movie version, Nancy Kwan, who played Linda Low, and Filipino Patrick Adiarte, who was 12 years old when he portrayed Wang San, graced the occasion at Otto’s restaurant in the Music Center complex.

Kwan told us during the show’s intermission, she was trying to watch the show “objectively” but she seemed to enjoy the proceedings onstage. Hwang, who was reported to be revising the cast’s lines up to the last minute, laughed when we asked him if he would keep making changes to his acclaimed new libretto. The Tony Award-winning son of Dorothy Hwang from Cebu (he said he enjoyed several childhood summers in the Visayan capital) said he couldn’t make libretto changes anymore after the show has officially opened.

BACK TO THE PRESENT. Alvin Ing (left), who was in the original touring production and is in the revival (a Los Angeles Times review termed his performance as "wonderful"), and Filipino Patrick Adiarte, who danced jazzy numbers as the 12-year-old Wang San in the screen version.

TWO glorious Linda Lows get together for an exclusive photo op—Sandra Allen and Nancy Kwan.

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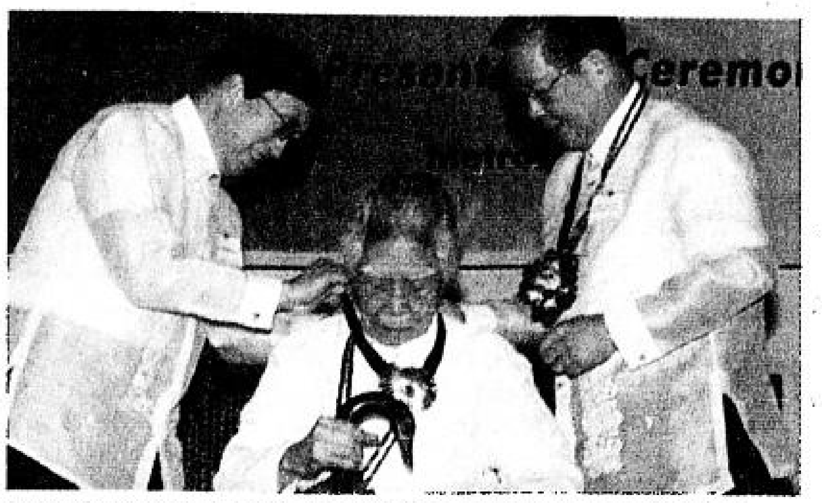
JESSICA Soho beams. With her is George Sy, Chief Justice Hilario Davide and Florangel Blaid



METROBANK'S George Sy puts the medal on Dean Armando Malay. Chief Justice Davide assists.

SHIELA Coronel of PCIJ gets her due.

Metrobank Foundation honors 3 outstanding journalists

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

ANICETO Sobrepeña

DR. Placido Mapa

IT wasn't exactly a fun week. A rather more serious air prevailed, in keeping with the times perhaps. Metrobank Foundation Inc., with the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, initiated the first Metrobank Foundation Search for Outstanding Journalists (SOJ) Awards in a ceremony held at its main headquarters in Makati. Three of the country's top journalists, **Shiela Coronel**, **Jessica Soho** and Dean **Armando Malay**, were honored.

Supreme Court Associate Justice **Artemio Panganiban** chaired the board of judges, together with former Education Secretary Dr. **Lourdes Quisumbing**, AIM president **Roberto de Ocampo**, Fr. **Joaquin Bernas** and UP Prof. **Elizabeth Diaz**.

The award aims to recognize and honor journalists who have produced excellent works. A significant part of the award is a series of lectures to be conducted by the awardees in various urban areas.

* * *

The National Museum presented another centennial celebration. This time, master wood sculptor **Jerry Araos** gathered friends and art lovers under the museum's roof.

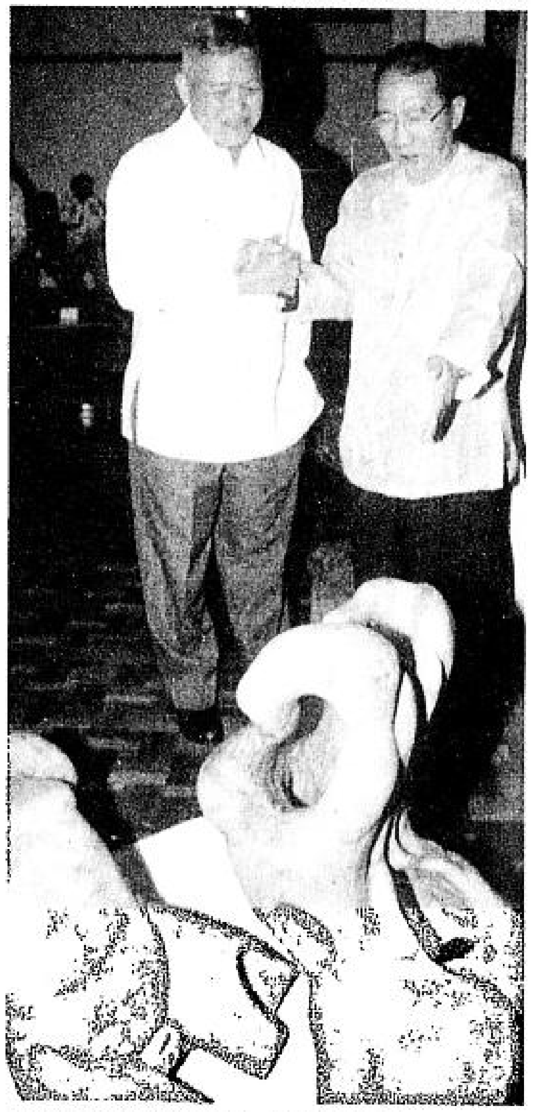
Jerry, being a retired Commie, invited man-of-the-moment **Victor Corpus** as special guest. Incoming museum director **Cora Alvina** and outgoing director Fr. **Gabriel Casal**, good friend **Virgie Moreno** and **Larry Francia** attended the affair.

Authentic Portuguese food and port wine was served at the get-together hosted by charming Portuguese Ambassador **Joao Caetano** and Mme. **Ulrike da Silva** at their residence. The menu also included the famous *bacalao* and scrumptious crab cakes and a slightly spicy octopus salad, which is reminiscent of squid in texture and taste. White port wine is nice to take before dinner and red port wine with your meal and a sweet port with dessert that included Engaño Bobo.

It's sad to hear that European Ambassador and Mme. **Yves Gazzo** will be ending their tour of duty. But they can still attend the International Ladies Bazaar, which is good news for those who support the bazaar culture of our country. We met Prof. **Febe Luntao**, a Filipina who speaks and teaches Portuguese at the UP and Assistant Solicitor General and Ms **Magdangal de Leon**, **Russel Soprepeña** of the DOT and **Rina Sinisalo**. Russel thinks we should push domestic tourism, but what do we do about the cost of transport?

Mexican Ambassador **Enrique Hubbard** is moving his office from Malate to the Enterprise Center on Ayala Avenue due to the horrible traffic. It's a good move because Makati is a business district. Danish Ambassador **Peter Rosting**, good friend and a fan of **F. Sionil Jose**, enjoys suspense stories and wanted to know if there are any local writers of the genre? For some reason, we've produced a lot of criminals but not authors of the said subject.

MILA Drilon, Marixi Prieto, Elvira Chan and Alex Prieto



VICTOR Corpus and Jerry Araos

MEXICAN Ambassador Enrique and Mme Mariana Hubbard

EUROPEAN Ambassador and Mme Yves Gazzo and Portuguese Ambassador Joao Caetano

PETER Wallace and Mme Ulrike da Silva

AMBASSADOR Russel Sobprepeña, Rina Sinisalo with Ambassador Caetano

DANISH Ambassador and Mme Peter Rosting

PROF. Febe Luntao and Assistant Solicitor General Magdangal de Leon

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'Gospa' of Medjugorje asks us to pray for miracles of the heart

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

MEDJUGORJE—It was already 6 p.m. of Oct. 26 when we set foot at St. James Church in Medjugorje, Bosnia.

Our safe arrival here is indeed a grace from God. We felt the sacredness of this place where the Virgin Mary appeared to six visionaries in June 1981. I'm thankful to Robert Lopez Puckett, who sponsored my trip.

It was 20 years after the Virgin first appeared to the young visionaries that I was able to visit Medjugorje with other Filipino pilgrims. The town had blossomed with hotels and pensions where pilgrims could stay, and souvenir shops where people could buy rosaries, holy pictures and religious materials.

I was with the group organized by Arpex Travel, composed of Chit Drilon, and her daughter Francine, Darwin and Patsy Halili, the latter's sister Gloria Retusto; Jing and Gene Estayo, Tessie and Ed Umali and our chaplain, Fr. Gene Rafal.

The first Holy Mass we attended was in Croatian, but different priests who led various groups read the Gospel in their own languages. Every Mass we attended was celebrated in such a manner. A Rosary was prayed at 5 p.m. in different languages. The church was overflowing with people when the Mass started at 6 p.m. with at least 25 priests concelebrating. It was followed by the Adoration of the Cross. The Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament took place at 9 p.m.

I was able to squeeze myself in the front row so I took photos, including the image of Our Lady of Medjugorje, which was at the right side of the altar.

Unique experience

By the time we attended the English Mass at 10 a.m. the following day, I was assured that the Blessed Virgin would be there for me at all times.

The priest who gave the homily in English said that we should consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He said that we should ask for Mary's help and she would help us. Pray the Rosary, so we would feel closer to her.

I cried after hearing such words. Perhaps, I was overwhelmed by this unique experience. People of all nations gathered here to pray as one.

Prayer

When I shared my experience with my friend Maripaz Godinez, she told me that when she went to Medjugorje for the first time in 1987, she asked Fr. Adorable what she should ask from the Virgin. The priest replied, "Ask for a miracle of the heart."

Contemplating on what she said, I know that I had a miracle of the heart as well, when I was able to forgive some people who hurt me in the past. Another miracle occurred when my faith in God's providence became stronger. I know now that if God gave me a problem, He would help me solve it through the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

The climb to Apparition Hill

The Virgin Mary first appeared to two teenagers, Mirjana and Ivanka on June 24, 1981 on a hill in the village of Bivankovici, near Medjugorje. When they saw her, they ran away. The grandmother of Mirjana advised her to bring holy water just to know if the lady they saw came from the devil or from God.

On the second day, a hundred people joined them, including Ivan. Mirjana sprinkled the Virgin with the holy water, but the Virgin just smiled. The next day, more people came and by this time, other friends Vicka, Jakov and Marija came as well. The first message of the Virgin was "Mir, mir, mir"—meaning "peace, peace, peace."

The Virgin Mary also appeared at what is now called Chapel of the Apparitions, which is located inside the church in Medjugorje. The hill where she first appeared became known as Apparition Hill.

My companions were able to climb to the top, but I didn't join them and instead prayed the Rosary with an old lady who was seated on the wayside. The path up the hill was full of stones, so climbing was a bit difficult.

After I prayed the Rosary with her, I asked her name. I felt goose pimples when she said "Maria." A Croatian who lived in the United States for some time, she spoke English well.

When I asked Chit Drilon, our tour leader, what she felt up there, she answered, "I felt absolute peace. I did not feel hungry anymore. I just felt peace."

How to go to Medjugorje

Our bus driver Jericho told me that at least 16 million people had visited Medjugorje since 1981. They came from different parts of the world. It was quite peaceful here and people could reach it by bus. It was a four-hour ride from Split in Croatia. The airport is located in Split, a progressive beautiful town that faces the Adriatic Sea.

Filipinos coming from Manila have to obtain visas to Croatia and Bosnia. We have an honorary consulate of Croatia in Manila, but we had to go to Jakarta just to get visas to Bosnia.

According to Alice Padlan of Arpex Travel, there will be a special retreat in Medjugorje on Dec. 1-9. Those interested to join can call her at 525-3883 or 525-3902.

Novena to Our Lady of Biglang Awa

A Triduum of Masses honoring Our Lady of Biglang Awa will take place on Nov. 9 at 5:45 p.m.; Nov. 10 and Nov. 11 at 4 p.m. at the St. Paul Seminary Chapel on 7708 St. Paul Road, Makati. Organized by Our Lady of Biglang Awa Foundation of Boac, Marinduque, the novena is meant to give a chance to Metro Manila residents from Boac to celebrate the Virgin's fiesta. The public is invited.

SHANGRI-LA's GM Lala Fojas and marketing manager Sandy Trela (fifth and seventh from left) with Baile Foundation's officers (from left) Leni Alano-Cabili, Johnny Hubilla, Cheska Tiu-Laurel, Maribel Dario, Menchu de Jesus-Tiglao, Lina Iñigo-Winebrenner, Carlos Hubilla and Edith Oliveros

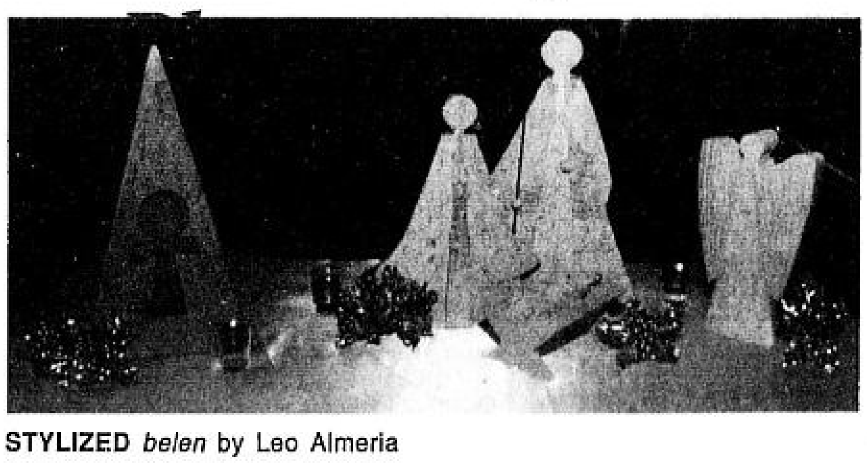
'Belen' as art at Shangri-La

ONE can rightly call it the "Bayanihan spirit." For three years now, the Baile Foundation (composed of pioneering members of the renowned Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company) and the Shangri-La Plaza have retained a sense of kinship and community through a yearly event that aims not only to raise funds for the foundation's projects but also promote Filipino culture and the arts.

For the past three years, Baile Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated in the preservation and cultivation of Philippine folk dance traditions, has found an ally in Shangri-La Plaza Mall in promoting the foundation's mission. In 1999, they teamed up for "Punong-Punong Pasko," which featured the highly imaginative Christmas trees of well-known interior designer. Edith Oliveros. Last year, there was the "Noche Buena, n.n.n. (not necessarily native)," an exhibit-sale of table settings at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, wherein guest artists are asked to decorate the traditional Christmas table in their own unique way.

"We want to present different concepts each year," explains Menchu de Jesus Tiglao, Baile Foundation president. "We want the viewing public to be inspired by our exhibits. This is not just a fund-raising project, we also want to be of service to the public."

This year, Baile and Shangri-La are presenting various interpretations of and ideas with the *belen*, the centerpiece of the Filipino holiday decorations. The exhibit, billed "Belen! Belen!," is slated from Nov. 9 to 27 at the Shaw side, 2/L lobby of the Shangri-la Plaza Mall and will showcase nativity sets designed by a number of the country's prominent artists, designers and collectors. It will have its formal launching on Nov. 9, at 5:30 p.m. and will be open for public viewing from Nov. 10 to 27.



STYLIZED *belen* by Leo Almeria

Participating are sculptor/National Artist Billy Abueva; glass sculptors Ramon Orlina and Impy Pilapil; interior designers Edith Oliveros, Johnny Hubilla, Manny Castro and Leo Almeria; ceramic artists Lanelle Abueva, Ugo Bigyan and Baide Mendoza; visual artist Rafael del Casal; kinetic artist Gabby Barredo; metal sculptor Ed Castrillo; wood sculptor Claude Tayag; antique collector/folklife scholar Ramon Villegas; Old Asia's Carmina Mapa del Rosario, Collect & Cherish's Tony Aquino and Benny Liwanag; and design firm Maphilindo.

From among the works are Lanelle Fernando's platter with painted stoneware ceramics using classical *belen* images; Rafael del Casal's triptych (three paintings that form into one) with two dancing angels flanking the nativity set and figures in Filipino costumes; Ramon Orlina's glass *belen* which will be an abstract take on the traditional scene; Leo Almeria's idea of a lantern and another made of laminated stone so stylized to give the *belen* a modern feel and Johnny Hubilla's marble slab with nativity scene etchings and another in a layered stained glass framed in black wood finish with backlighting. Impy Pilapil promises a glass, wood and gold leaf piece and Edith Oliveros celebrates the birth of Jesus on a "home along the *riles*."

Exhibit proceeds will go to Baile Foundation's Saliksik Awards 2002 which seeks to recognize the Filipino's commitment to preserve Philippine heritage and culture through dance research.

"All of these projects are meant to preserve the Philippines' rich dance traditions, in an age when Western forms of dance largely have supplanted our native dances in the public mind," ends Tiglao.

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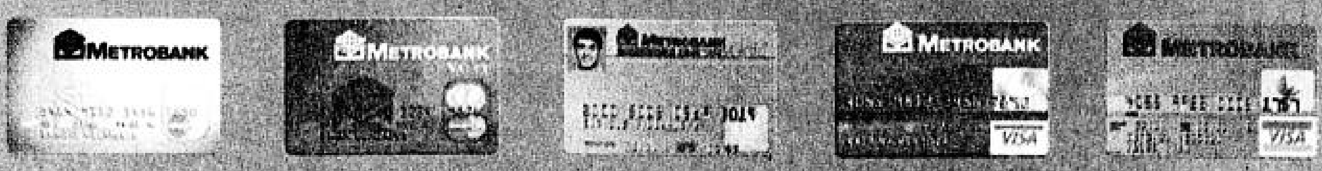

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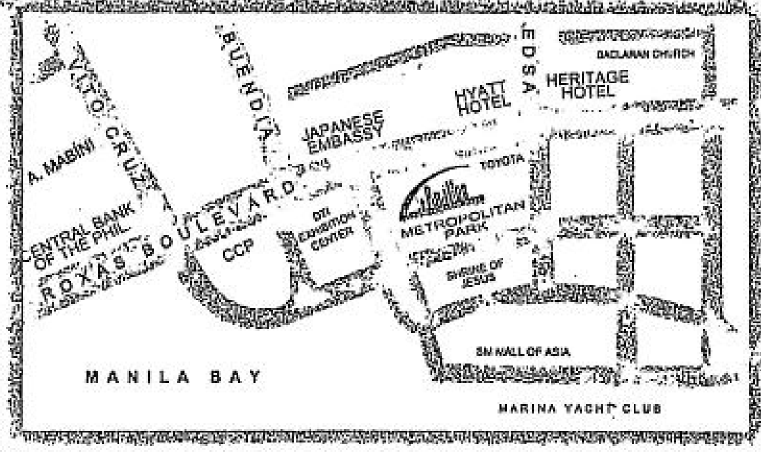

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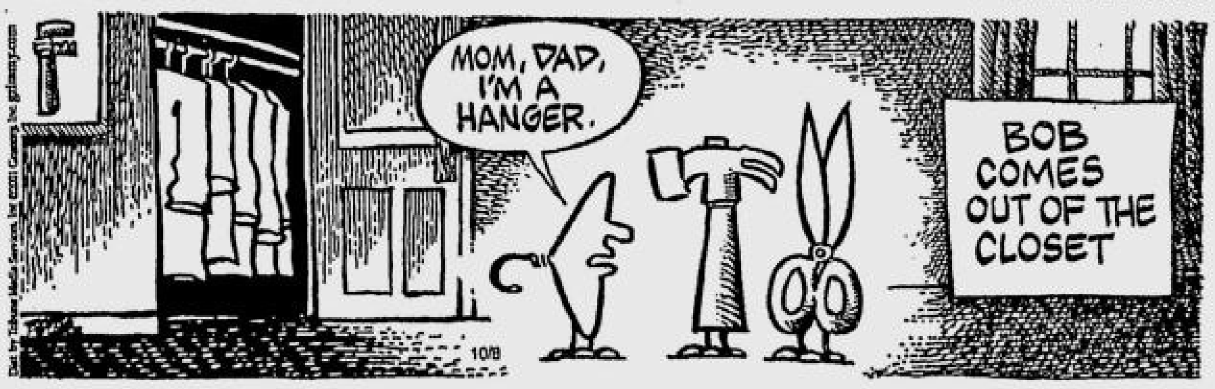
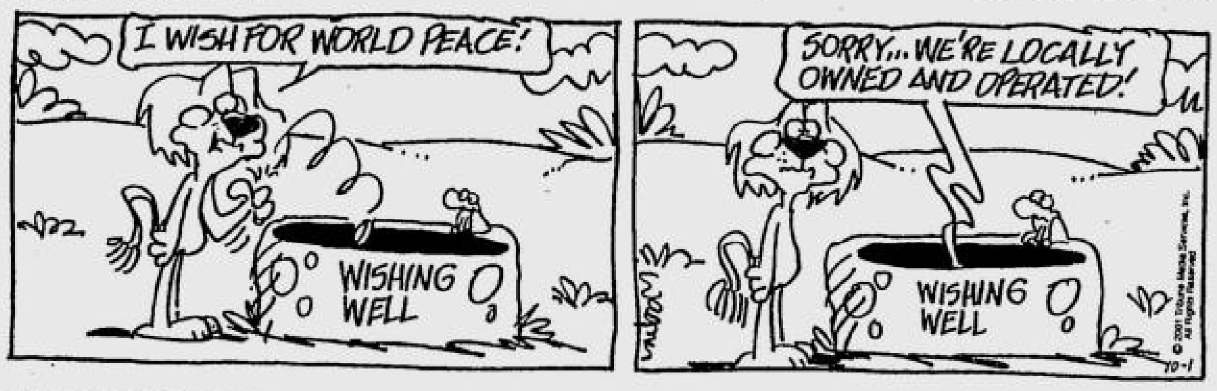
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MOM, DAD, I'M A HANGER.
BOB COMES OUT OF THE CLOSET
10/8

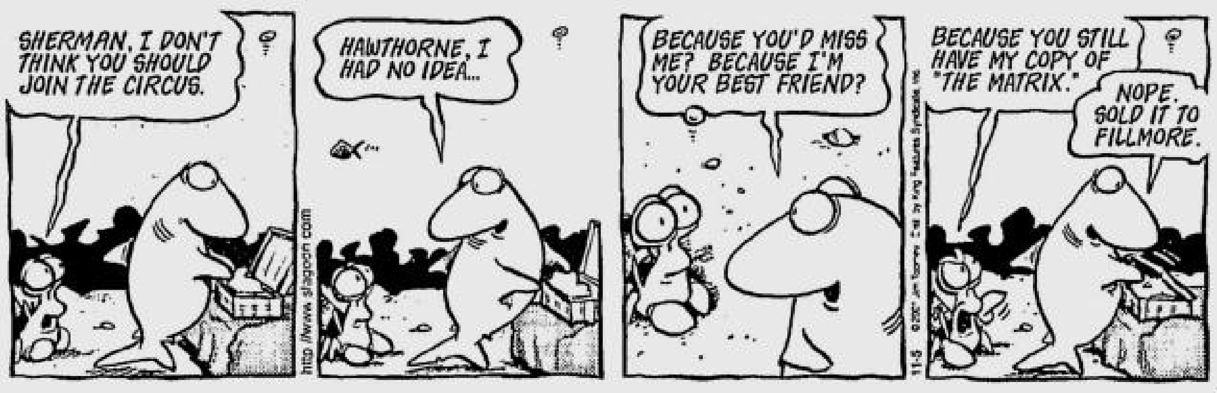
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I WISH FOR WORLD PEACE!
WISHING WELL
SORRY... WE'RE LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED!
WISHING WELL
10-1

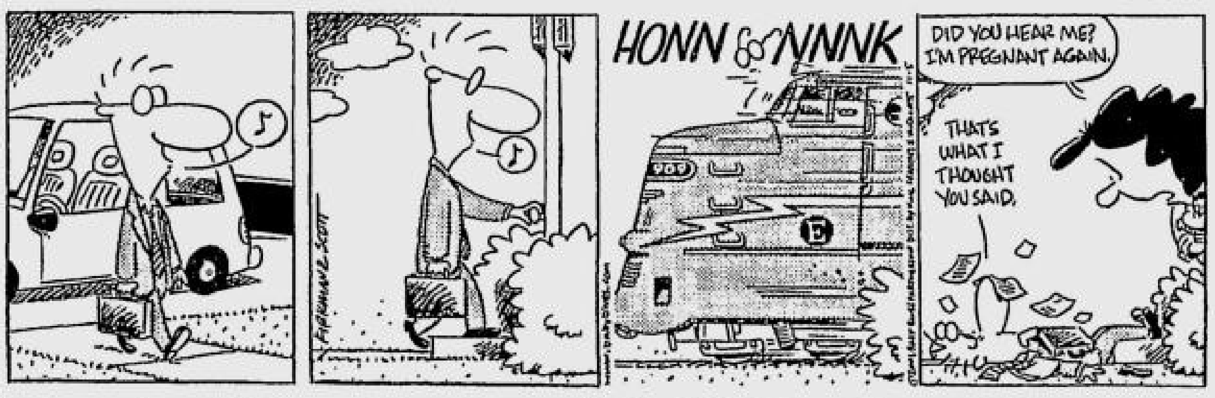
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD JOIN THE CIRCUS.
HAWTHORNE, I HAD NO IDEA...
BECAUSE YOU'D MISS ME? BECAUSE I'M YOUR BEST FRIEND?
BECAUSE YOU STILL HAVE MY COPY OF "THE MATRIX."
NOPE. SOLD IT TO FILLMORE.
http://www.slagoon.com
11-5

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HONN & NNNK
DID YOU HEAR ME? I'M PREGNANT AGAIN.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT YOU SAID.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Art Garfunkel, Tatum O'Neal, Bryan Adams, Sam Shepard, Tilda Swinton

Happy Birthday: Be sure of yourself and your abilities before plunging into new ventures. Uncertainties and unwise choices may lead you down the wrong path. Consider all the pros and cons before making promises you're unlikely to keep. Don't be afraid to be a little different. Your numbers: 8, 13, 16, 27, 31, 34

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Instability in your personal life should not be cause for alarm. Existing problems will be eliminated by a move. Be patient and you will do just fine.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone may mislead or misinterpret you. Check out investment opportunities carefully and stay away from joint ventures, lending to friends or any gambling. Money saved becomes financial gains.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Career changes and advancement can be yours. Don't be too shy to present your ideas to superiors. Moneymaking ventures are not as promising as they appear.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your personal life may be causing stress. Do something about it or you may find yourself in a much bigger dilemma. Relationships with clients will be frowned upon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This isn't the best time for a move. Keep your cool to spare yourself some grief. Make plans to separate yourself from joint financial partnerships, but don't take action yet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can make a point by sticking up for the underdog at organizational meetings. Don't be surprised if someone stretches the truth to avoid embarrassment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a look around. Your position both at home and at work appears to be unsettled. The more patience you have, the better you'll fare in the long run.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Move into new territory. Enjoy the change of pace, expect the unexpected, and be witty around others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Spruce up your environment and lift your spirits. If you assist a friend who can't get his or her act together with compassion and willingness, you will always have someone you can count on.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be erratic today, changing your mind and everyday routine quite suddenly. Those closest to you may be perplexed. Trying to explain would only be a waste of time. Follow your gut feeling.

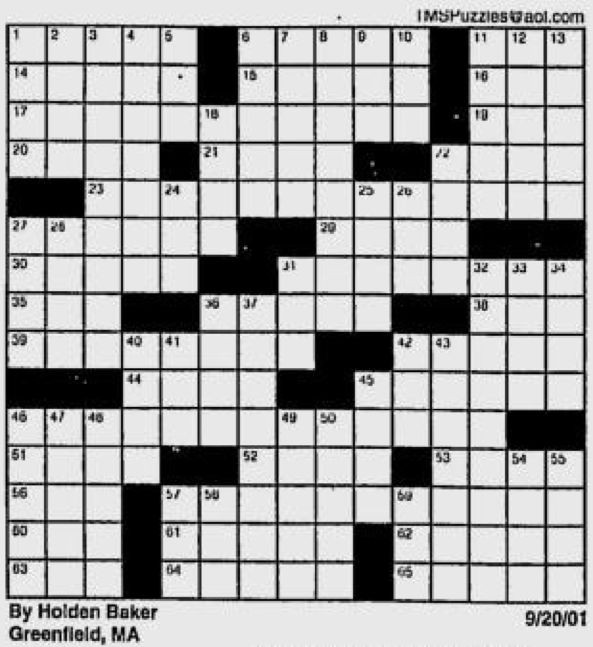
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep it together. Emotional instability will hurt you at work. If you're advised to take some time off and do so, you may be replaced. Keep your thoughts to yourself and do your best.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can only do so much. Unreliable friends or acquaintances may take advantage of your kindness. Do what's best for you and let others fend for themselves. You can make headway if you aren't bogged down by everyone else's needs.

Birthday Baby: You have high expectations and will strive to meet the demands you put on yourself. You are sensitive, thoughtful and intuitive. You are receptive to new ideas and have a vivid imagination.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA

9/20/01

ACROSS
1 Louisiana cuisine
6 Gap in time
11 Swiss mountain
14 __ we all?
15 Twin Falls state
16 Dodger great Hodges
17 Man of fashion
19 Rap sheet letters
20 Actress Nazimova
21 Singer Guthrie
22 Candid
23 Man of fashion
27 Full-term inmates
29 Author Ferber
30 Etching fluids
31 Riding one's bicycle
35 Paul of guitars
36 New England sch.
38 Natal lead-in
39 Olympians
42 Picture border
44 Alda or Ladd
45 Coercion
46 Man of fashion
51 Present packaging
52 Space starter?
53 Switch positions
56 Hearing organ
57 Man of fashion
60 ABA member
61 Eyes lasciviously
62 "Guitar Town" singer Steve
63 Florida island
64 Check recipient
65 Actress Della

DOWN
1 "__, Mia"
2 Shrinking Asian sea
3 Medusa
4 Dirt, roadwise
5 Final degree
6 Truth twisters
7 All grown up
8 Those conditionally released
9 H. Rider Haggard novel
10 Very long period
11 Yawning wide
12 Compare (to)
13 Assembly-line site
18 Irish maid
22 Exam type
24 Trauma centers: abbr.
25 Annexes
26 Actress Merkel
27 Tra followers
28 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
31 Ballet step
32 Poke one's nose in
33 Trawlers' requirements
34 Takes off
36 Canyonlands state
37 In a servile manner
40 Light source
41 TV's Tarzan
42 Kisser
43 Interstices
45 Singer Celine
46 Make minute adjustments
47 Speechify
48 Feldman or Robbins
49 Flood protection
50 Upholstery fabric
54 Jordan's currency
55 Dunfermline dagger
57 Flatfoot
58 __ Khan IV
59 Plunk starter?

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

O	T	T	O	■	A	J	A	R	■	S	H	A	R	E
R	U	E	D	■	B	O	L	E	■	P	A	R	E	D
A	B	S	E	N	C	E	O	F	M	A	L	I	C	E
L	A	S	S	O	■	■	T	E	A	R	■	S	U	N
■	■	■	S	T	U	D	■	R	U	S	S	E	T	S
R	E	P	A	I	R	E	R	■	L	E	O	■	■	■
A	C	E	■	C	A	N	A	L	■	■	U	R	D	U
T	H	E	P	E	L	I	C	A	N	B	R	I	E	F
S	O	L	O	■	■	M	E	T	O	O	■	M	A	O
■	■	■	P	B	S	■	S	H	O	R	T	E	N	S
R	O	S	E	O	L	A	■	E	N	Z	O	■	■	■
A	P	E	■	A	A	R	P	■	■	O	R	I	B	I
N	E	V	E	R	B	E	E	N	K	I	S	S	E	D
G	R	E	E	D	■	N	A	H	A	■	O	L	L	A
E	A	R	L	S	■	A	L	L	Y	■	S	E	T	S

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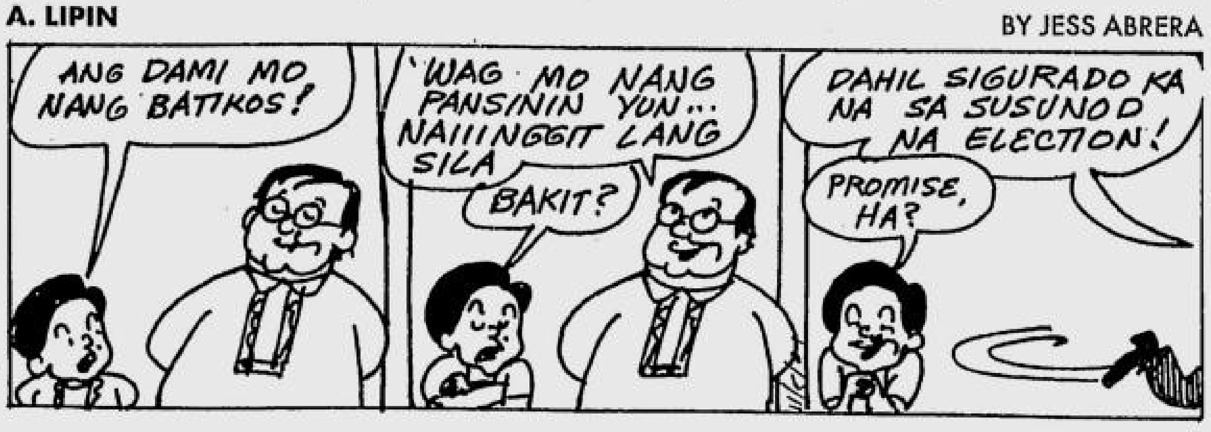
9/20/01

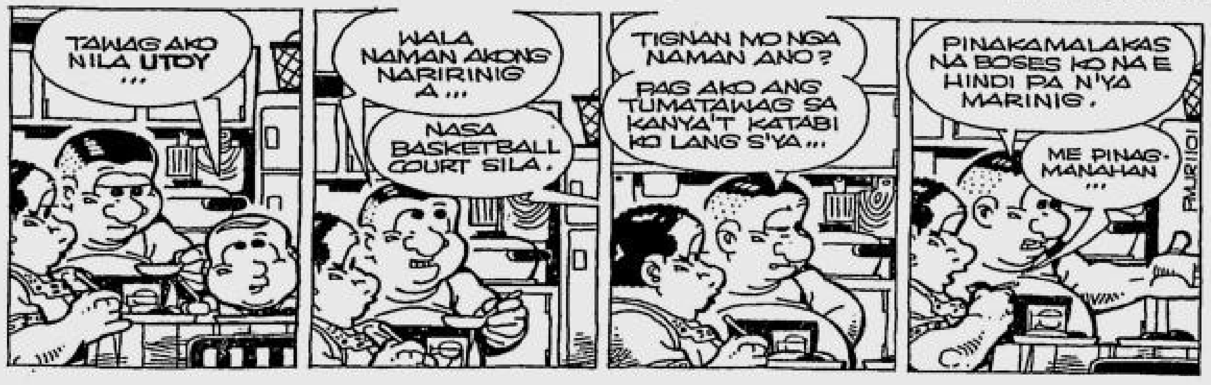
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DAMI MO NANG BATIKOS!
'WAG MO NANG PANSININ YUN... NAIIINGGIT LANG SILA
BAKIT?
DAHIL SIGURADO KA NA SA SUSUNOD NA ELECTION!
PROMISE, HA?

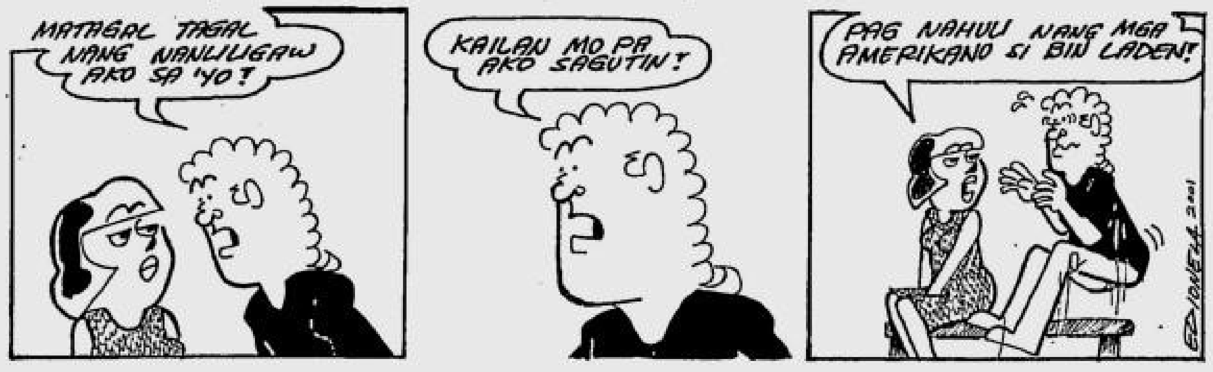
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TAWAG AKO NILA UTOY ...
WALA NAMAN AKONG NARIRINIG A...
NASA BASKETBALL COURT SILA.
TIGNAN MO NGA NAMAN ANO?
PAG AKO ANG TUMATAWAG SA KANYA'T KATABI KO LANG S'YA...
PINAKAMALAKAS NA BOSES KO NA E HINDI PA N'YA MARINIG.
ME PINAG-MANAHAN ...

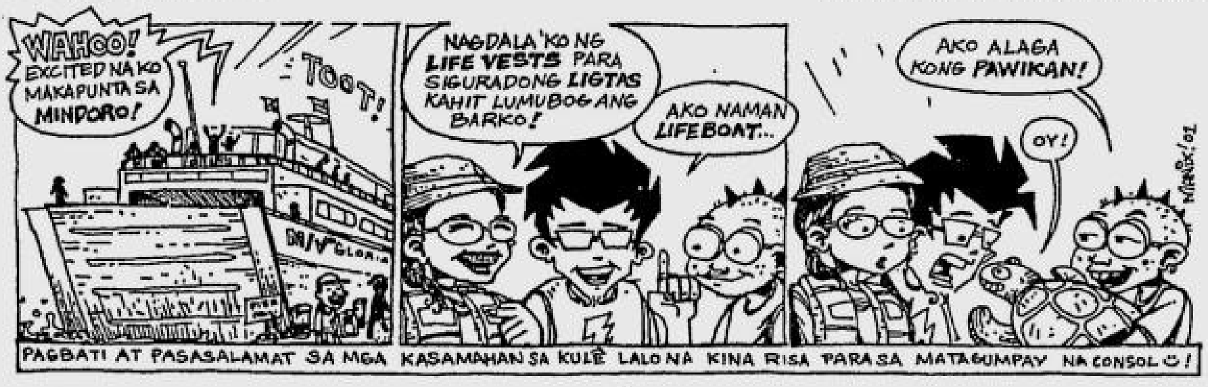
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MATAGAL TAGAL NANG NANLILIGAW AKO SA 'YO!
KAILAN MO PA AKO SAGUTIN?
PAG NAHULI NANG MGA AMERIKANO SI BIN LADEN!
EDIONELA 2001

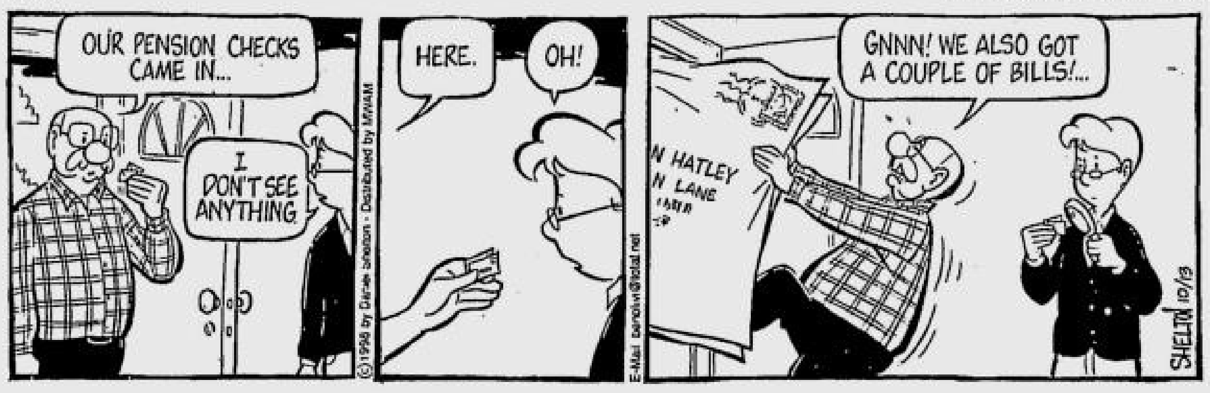
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


WAHOO! EXCITED NA KO MAKAPUNTA SA MINDORO!
TOOT!
NAGDALA 'KO NG LIFE VESTS PARA SIGURADONG LIGTAS KAHIT LUMUBOG ANG BARKO!
AKO NAMAN LIFEBOAT...
AKO ALAGA KONG PAWIKAN!
OY!
PAGBATI AT PASASALAMAT SA MGA KASAMAHAN SA KULê LALO NA KINA RISA PARA SA MATAGUMPAY NA CONSOL ☺!

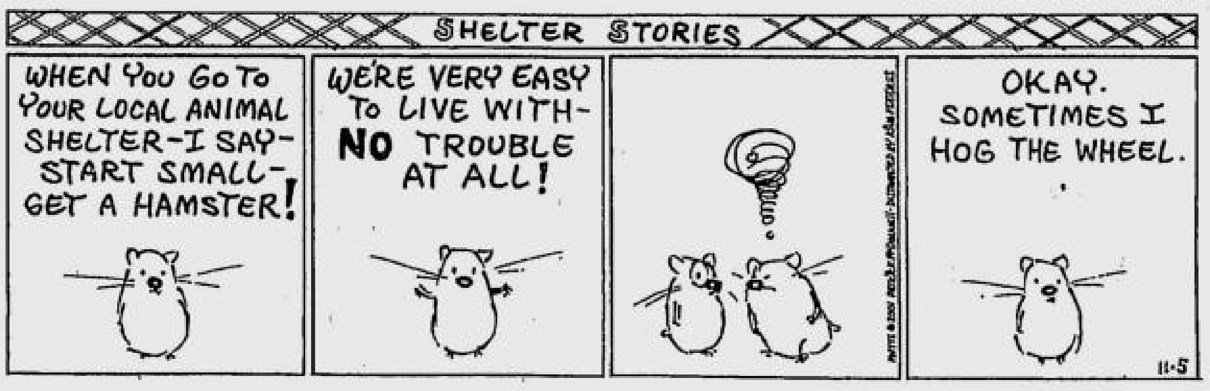
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OUR PENSION CHECKS CAME IN...
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING
HERE.
OH!
GNNN! WE ALSO GOT A COUPLE OF BILLS!...
SHELTON 10/13

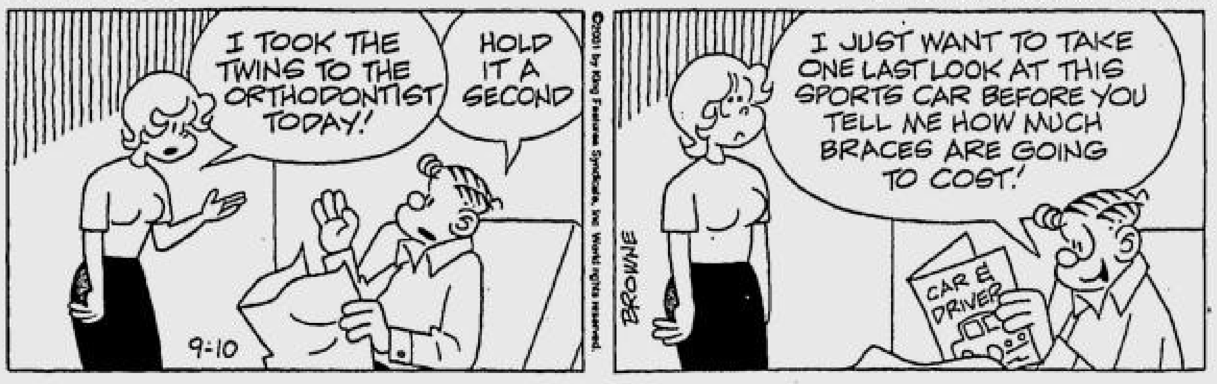
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
WHEN YOU GO TO YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER—I SAY—START SMALL—GET A HAMSTER!
WE'RE VERY EASY TO LIVE WITH—NO TROUBLE AT ALL!
OKAY. SOMETIMES I HOG THE WHEEL.
11-5

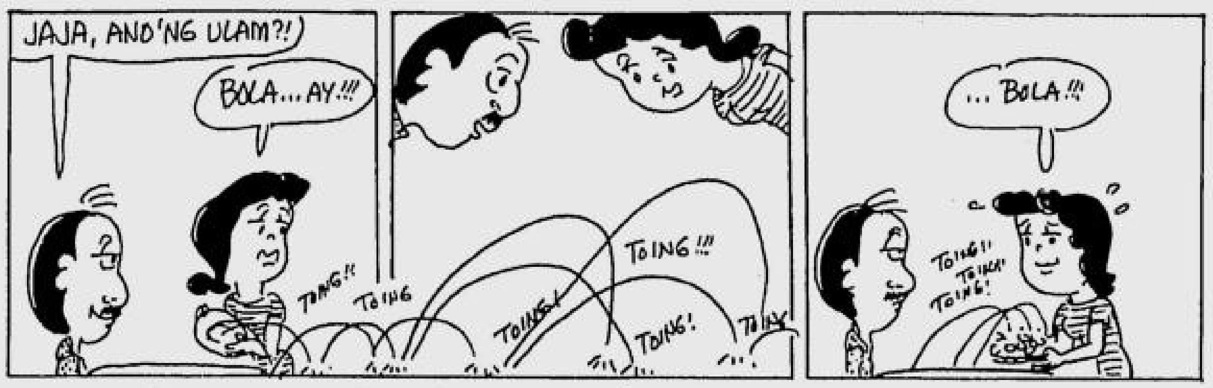
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I TOOK THE TWINS TO THE ORTHODONTIST TODAY!
HOLD IT A SECOND
9-10
I JUST WANT TO TAKE ONE LAST LOOK AT THIS SPORTS CAR BEFORE YOU TELL ME HOW MUCH BRACES ARE GOING TO COST!
CAR & DRIVER
BROWNE

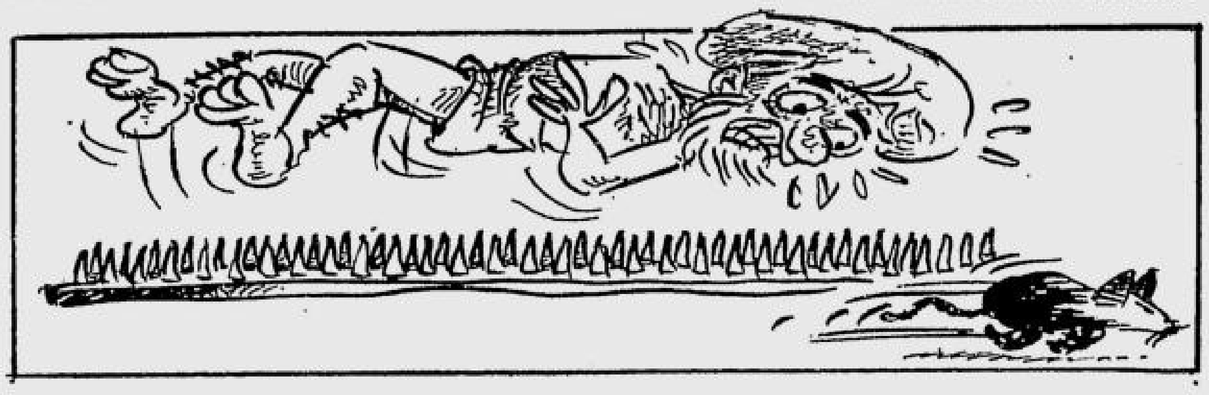
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

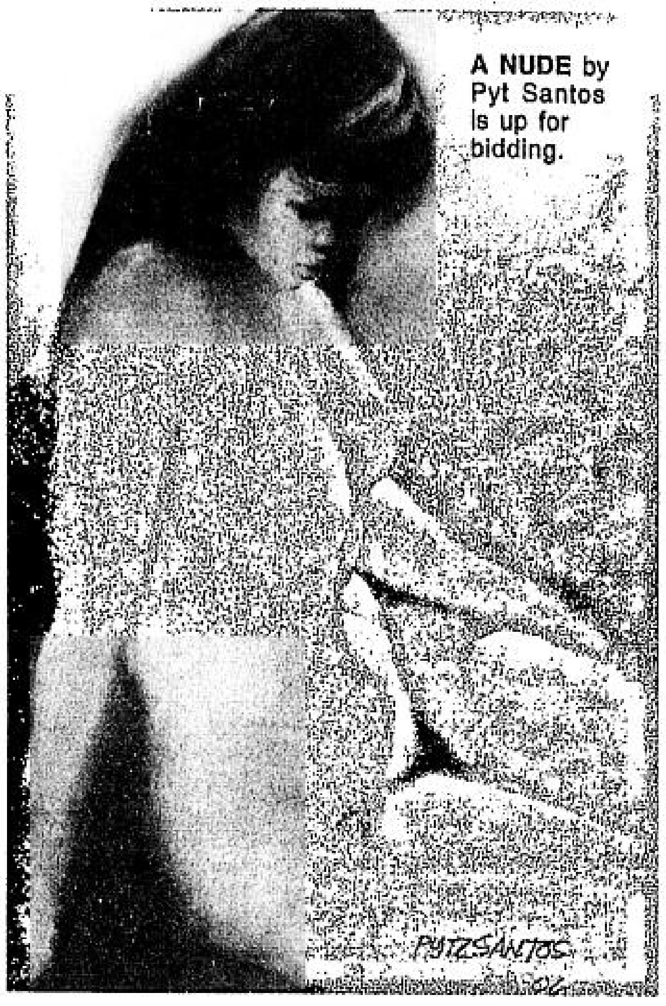

JAJA, ANO'NG ULAM?!
BOLA... AY!!!
TOING!!
TOING
TOING!!!
TOING!
TOING!
... BOLA!!!
TOING!! TOING! TOING!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Chivas Regal's art auction for a cause on Nov. 9 and 16



A NUDE by Pyt Santos is up for bidding.

LA Mesa Watershed Reforestation Project will be the beneficiary of an art auction that is part of Chivas Regal's global celebration of its 200th anniversary.

Artists who share the mission of Bantay Kalikasan in "saving La Mesa Dam" have come together to contribute their work for a good cause.

Susan Fetalvero-Roces, known for her abstract work in oil, has donated two abstract prints—"Rice Fields," a black-and-white rendition of Philippine rice field impressions, and "Kadagatan," a black-and-white underwater theme with splashes of bright colors. Auction date is Nov. 9 at Chef & Brewer.

Another contributor, Pyt Santos, founding member of grUPo, composed of artists using various media, is a master of the human form, as seen in his pastel, oil and pen and ink executions of dance themes. Pyt will donate two nude works that reflect his excellence in theatrical lighting inspired by his daughter Katrina's ballet dance presentations.

Metal sculptor Reggie Yuson has also donated an art piece. Auction date is Nov. 16 at Venezia.

On Nov. 9, auction lots are a lunch date with Dominic Ochoa, a limited edition Chivas Regal 18-year-old bottle, an autographed copy of the 2001 Joyce Jimenez Calendar, lunch with Michelle Bayle, a photo session with Rupert Jacinto, a chance to be guest reporter at News Central's Feature Segment, a "Flesh for Fantasy" book featuring Patricia Javier, and a date with Joyce Jimenez. Auction venue is at Chef & Brewer.

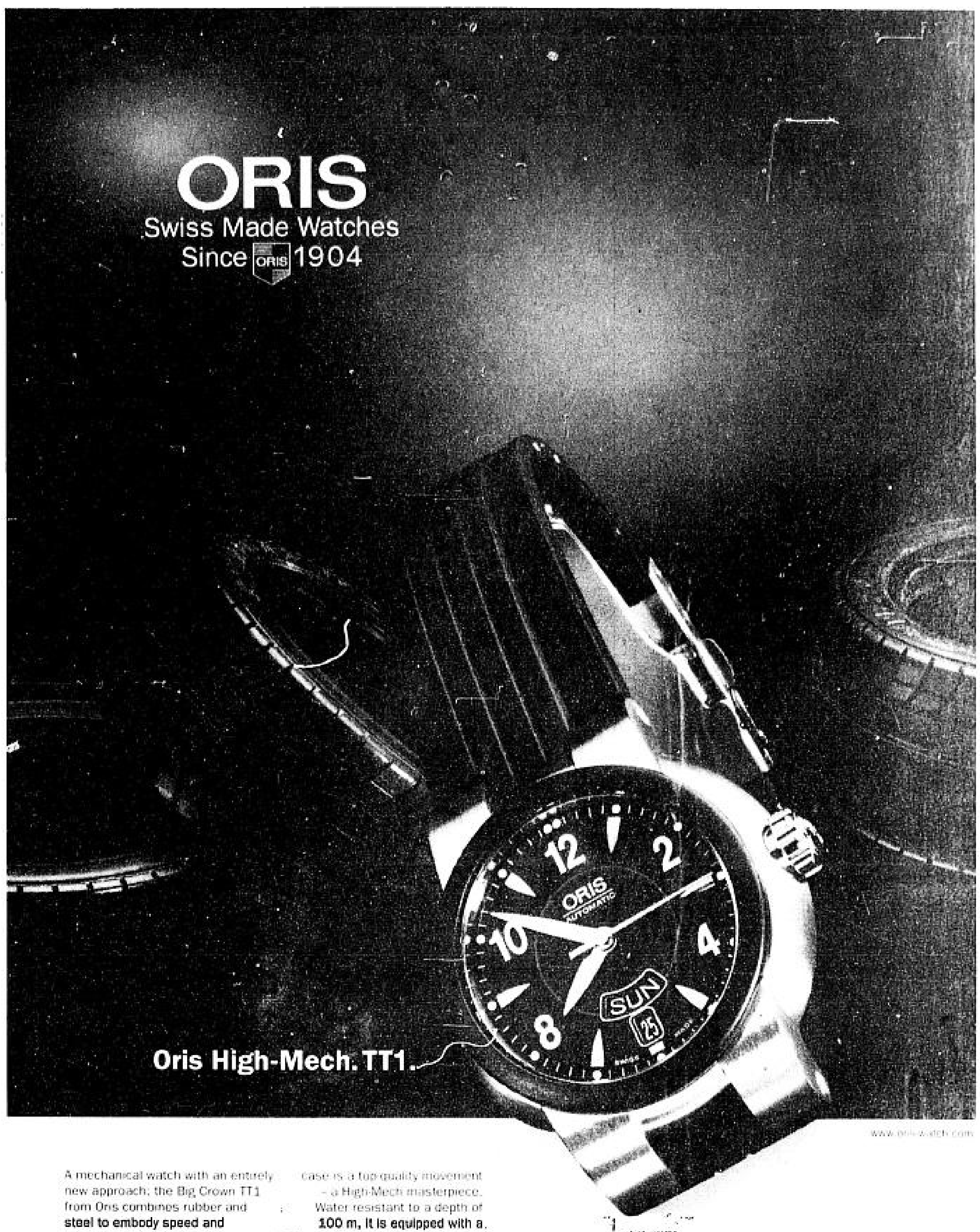
The final auction is scheduled Nov. 16 at Venezia with the following lots: a Chivas Regal commemorative bottle, a personalized Web page at PinoyCentral, a makeover at Basement Salon with Angel Aquino as consultant, an autographed copy of the 2001 Joyce Jimenez calendar, a peppermint hair treatment at Emphasis Salon and a date with Joyce Jimenez.

Proceeds of all auction series will go to La Mesa Watershed Reforestation Project of ABS-CBN Foundation. Through the generosity of donors, all lots are priced way below normal value.

Thomasite play in English and Filipino at CCP

TANGHALANG Pilipino will again stage the English and Filipino versions of "One Hundred Songs of Helen Fee," Tony Perez's play about one of the Thomasites, the first American public school teachers in the Philippines. The English version will go on stage on Nov. 9, 17 and 23 at 8 p.m., and Nov. 10, 18 and 24 at 3 p.m. The Filipino version is set on Nov. 10, 16 and 24 at 8 p.m., and Nov. 11, 17 and 25 at 3 p.m. All showings at the CCP.

Call 832-3661/1125 local 1620 or Ticketworld at 891-5610.



A mechanical watch with an entirely new approach: the Big Crown TT1 from Oris combines rubber and steel to embody speed and elegance. The strap, with tyre-tread pattern, and the top ring are made of vulcanised black rubber. Embedded into the massive stainless-steel case is a top-quality movement – a High-Mech masterpiece. Water resistant to a depth of 100 m, it is equipped with a screw-down crown and day/date displays. When every second counts, the Oris Big Crown TT1 keeps time on your side.

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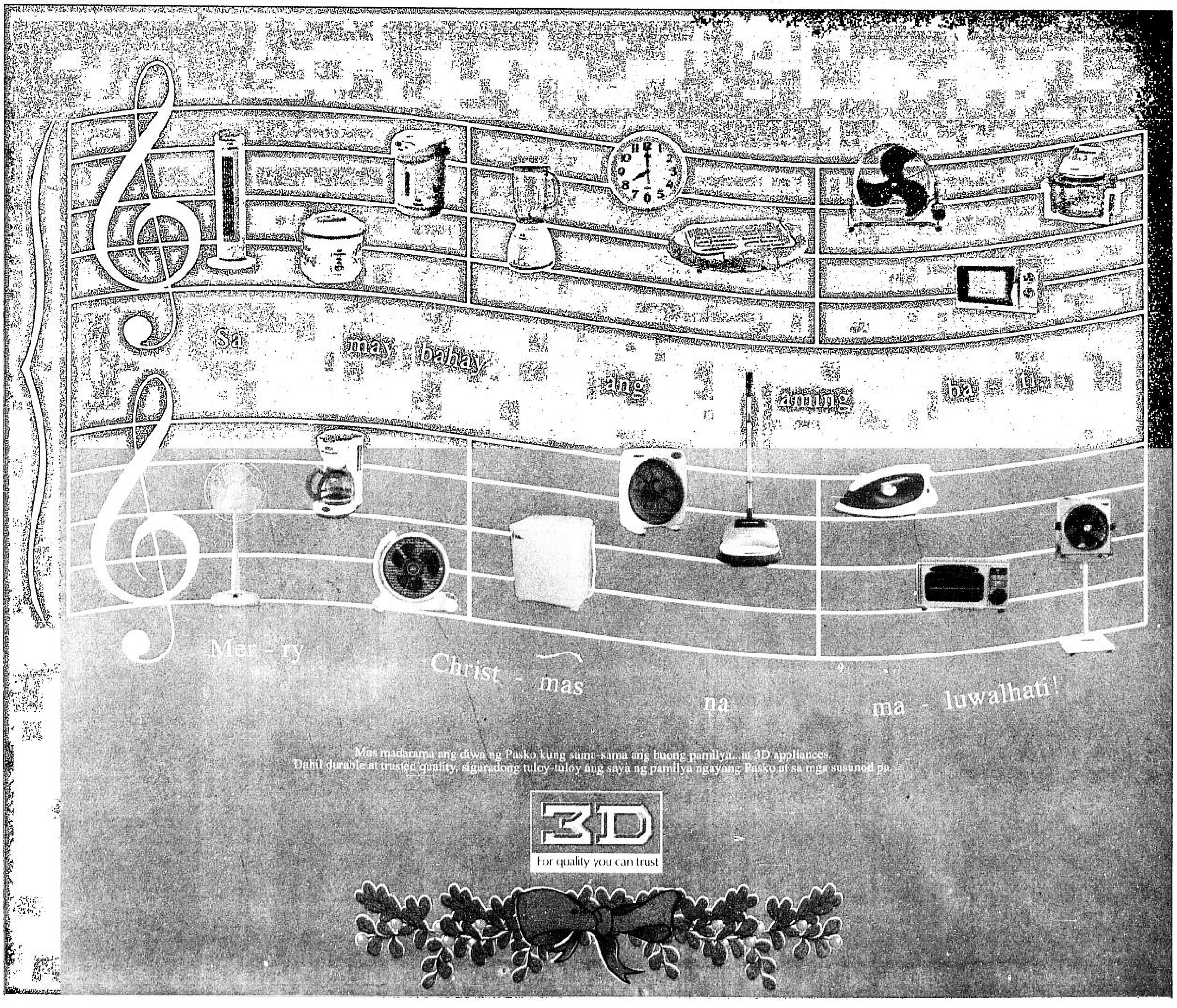
WATCHWORKS. Level2, ALI MALL, Araneta Center, Quezon City
Level2, AYALA CENTER CEBU, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City


Sa may bahay ang aming ba - ti
Mer - ry Christ - mas na ma - luwalhati!
3D
For quality you can trust

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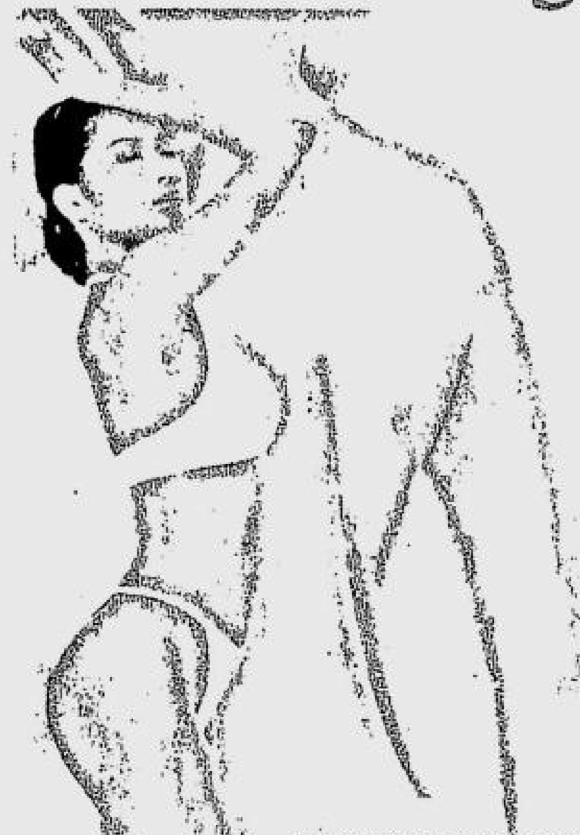


Are you honestly happy with your figure? Nowadays, it's rare to find a woman who is completely satisfied with her shape. Usually, if it's not the whole body, there's always a part that needs to be slimmed down. Whether the excess fat lies in your flabby arms, bulging tummy, or cellulite-ridden thighs, it will always get in the way of your ideal image for your figure. Fortunately, there's a scientific slimming center that understands your concerns regarding your particular fat and weight problems. Through the years, *Marie-France Bodyline* has fulfilled the dreams of countless women in achieving and maintaining a slimmer shape and a healthier lifestyle. And the best part of Marie-France is its unique weight-loss programme guaranteed to satisfy your weight-loss needs: *No Exercise Machines, No Workout Classes, No Pills or Injections, No Hunger Pains, No Medications, and No Surgery.* As it celebrates its 16th anniversary, Marie-France has proven time and again that you can become slim and stay like that without constant dieting or having to experience the pain and strain of other weight-loss methods.

"New" was definitely the byword at Marie-France for the year 2001. The launch of a new treatment, the introduction of new branches and a new center location, and all-new testimonial talents who are proud to share their slimming success stories. Last January, Marie-France welcomed the new year with its latest addition to its exclusive line-up of safe, effective, and non-invasive slimming treatments. **Thermolipolysis** is a heat-generating system that safely stimulates your body's natural thermogenic process to burn fat faster. It also increases the amount of energy you feel so you can continuously lose fat even *after* the treatment session. It can even increase localized metabolism, facilitate the dissolving of fat, get rid of water retention, and flush out toxins. The beauty of Thermolipolysis is that you not only burn fat but stop it from being stored in your body. In fact, the weight you lose is exclusively from fat and not lean muscle mass. If you want to turn up the heat on your excess fat problem, then Thermolipolysis is your solution.

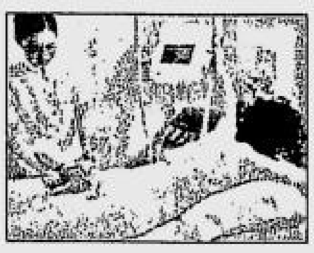
- **The fast fat-burning Thermolipolysis:** Marie-France's latest non-invasive treatment

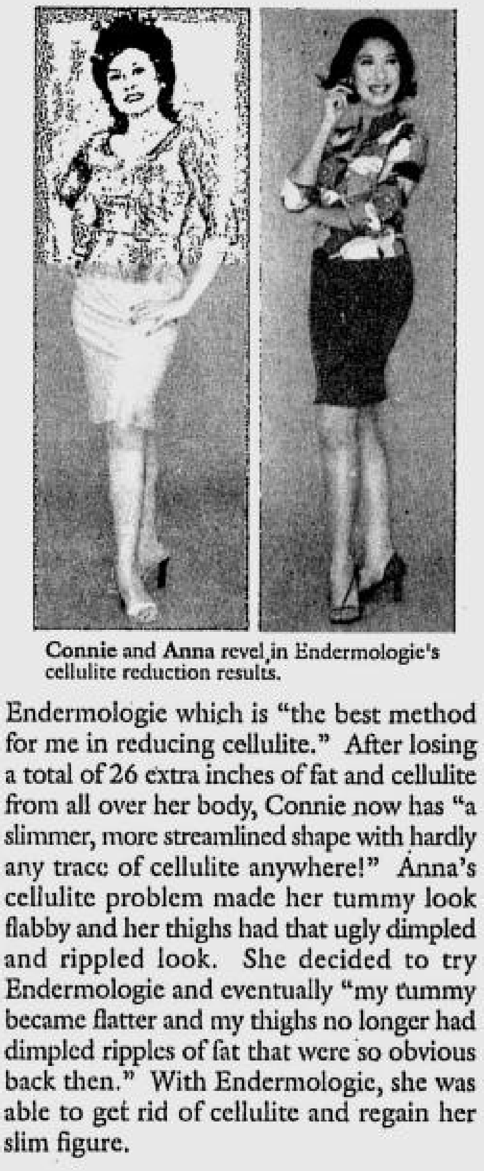
As part of its expansion plans, Marie-France has added an additional branch in Quezon City and established a new one in Pampanga. Aside from its current Timog center, the latest Marie-France in Quezon City is now open at the second floor of the Q Plaza Bldg. along Congressional Avenue. Marie-France has also opened another center at the third floor of Dan's Marketing Bldg., McArthur Highway, Brgy. Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga. The Marie-France Ortigas branch has now moved to a new location at the 36th floor of the Robinsons Equitable Tower along ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Expect the very best that Marie-France has to offer: the most advanced, non-invasive slimming technology, professional service from highly trained therapists, consultants, and center physicians, bigger treatment rooms that allow you to relax and slim down comfortably with the utmost privacy, and other special features that will make your visit to Marie-France more worthwhile.

Marie-France is also proud to reveal its new testimonial models: Raquel, Elle, Elmira, and Nancy. Raquel Tan was 131 lbs. when she came to Marie-France. She lost 31 lbs. of post-natal fat with the help of the Fat Mobilization System wrap. Now at 100 lbs., Raquel has regained the slim figure she once had when she was still single. Elle started at 126 lbs. and steadily lost 19 lbs. plus extra inches of fat through Physique. With her weight at 107 lbs., Elle got real slimming results and now trusts the true weight-loss professionals at Marie-France. From a heavyweight at 212 lbs., Elmira lost an astounding 92 lbs. through various treatments, including NuLegs Detoxitrim System which reshaped her heavy-set legs. Now, she's enjoying her new weight of 120 lbs. and her new, shapely figure. Finally, Nancy Ang of Cebu lost 34 lbs. and toned down her thick arms and thighs with the help of Vara Pulse Fat Reducer. From 149 lbs. to 115 lbs., Nancy feels lighter, much healthier, and more confident to wear anything with her slimmer shape. These women are now among Marie-France's elite Bodies of Evidence: women who have slimmed down and remained sexy effortlessly and effectively at Marie-France.

Raquel, Elle, Elmira, and Nancy are proud to be among Marie-France's Bodies of Evidence.

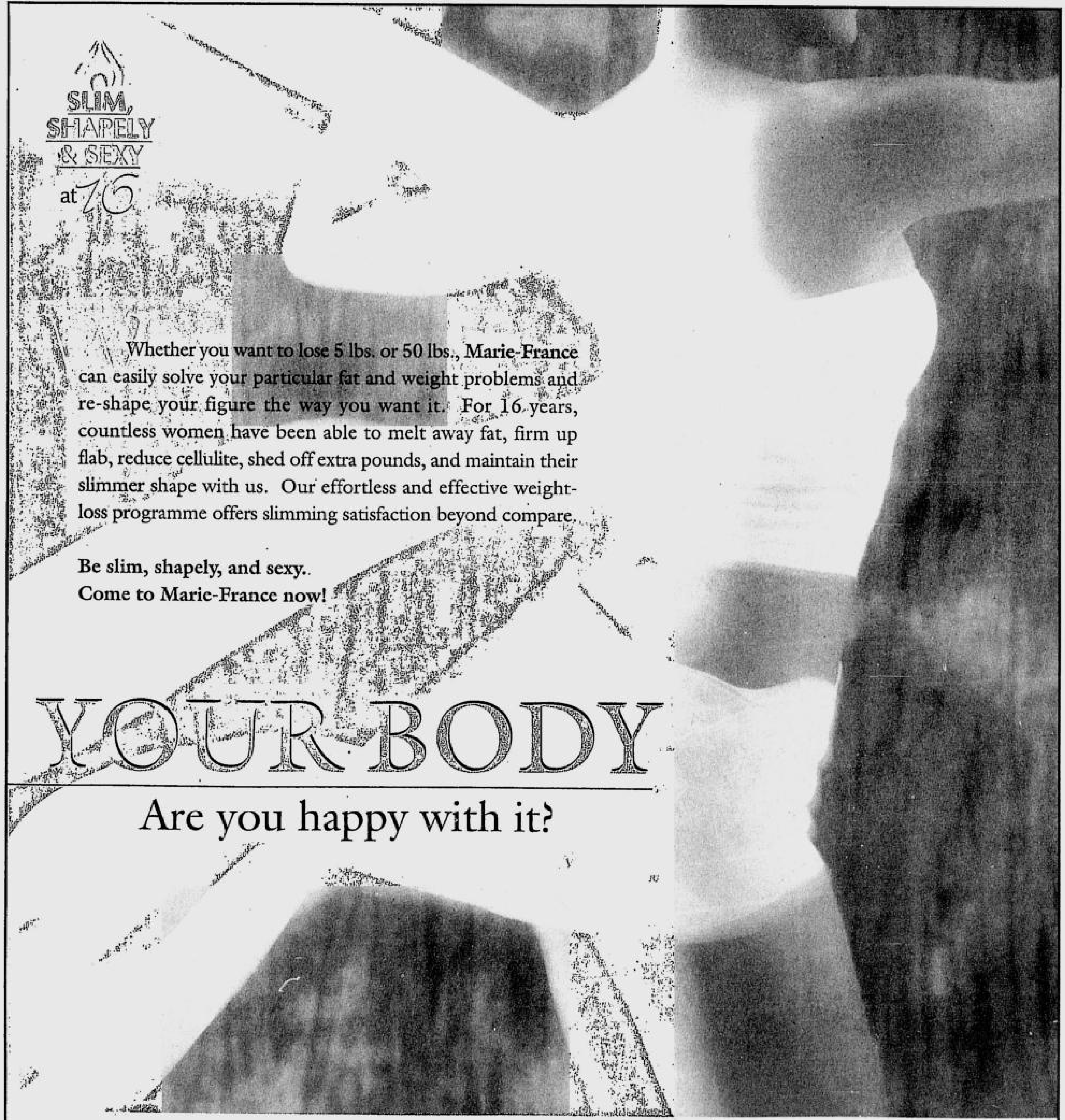
Aside from these new developments, Marie-France has also achieved much success from the incredible results of the revolutionary **Endermologie treatment, the only FDA-approved treatment for cellulite reduction.** Marie-France clients Connie Velarde and Anna Marie Golez were among those who have discovered its amazing benefits. Connie went through exercise machines and aerobic classes to get rid of her uneven ripples of fat but to no avail. She tried Marie-France's Endermologie which is "the best method for me in reducing cellulite." After losing a total of 26 extra inches of fat and cellulite from all over her body, Connie now has "a slimmer, more streamlined shape with hardly any trace of cellulite anywhere!" Anna's cellulite problem made her tummy look flabby and her thighs had that ugly dimpled and rippled look. She decided to try Endermologie and eventually "my tummy became flatter and my thighs no longer had dimpled ripples of fat that were so obvious back then." With Endermologie, she was able to get rid of cellulite and regain her slim figure.





Connie and Anna revel in Endermologie's cellulite reduction results.

With 16 years of truly remarkable slimming results, Marie-France is definitely THE weight-loss center for the woman of today. If you would like to be slimmer, shapelier and sexier, please refer to Marie-France print ads and set your appointment with a consultant at a branch nearest you.



Whether you want to lose 5 lbs. or 50 lbs., **Marie-France** can easily solve your particular fat and weight problems and re-shape your figure the way you want it. For 16 years, countless women have been able to melt away fat, firm up flab, reduce cellulite, shed off extra pounds, and maintain their slimmer shape with us. Our effortless and effective weight-loss programme offers slimming satisfaction beyond compare.

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New Voice Company's revolution of sorts

By Cora Llamas

THINK of New Voice Company (NVC) and immediately several images come to mind. Monique Wilson, one of the young leading luminaries on stage right now, who also happens to be the founding artistic director of the group. Groundbreaking, cause-oriented plays like "The Vagina Monologues (TVM)" that break the silence on taboos and the most intimate aspects of female sexuality, rape and incest.

True to form, the new NVC production this November, "Revolutionary Hearts," will again be calling attention to social realities like globalization and colonialism. But this time, the voices that sing and dance the message will be from the young. And Wilson, who has mentored and trained her youthful ensemble for years, will be taking the backseat on this one.

On their own

Like any proud parent, she's letting go, in a manner of speaking, preferring to watch behind the wings, ready to assist if needed, but letting the NVC ensemble shine out on their own.

"It's high time that they fly off on their own," gushes Wilson. "Certainly it's a risk. But we have to take it in order to push them to have their own identity. The NVC is a strong group made up of strong individuals. Being always in my shadow is not helpful."

NEW/ p.F4

MONIQUE WILSON. "Young talents should stand on their own."

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Now you can.

The concept of Skin Health Restoration is revolutionary because, instead of just dealing with the superficial symptoms of aging skin, it actually reaches deep below the surface, right down to the cellular level to stimulate and actually promote your skin's restoration.

SKIN HEALTH RESTORATION WITH OBAGI

It all starts with the selection of a physician trained in the art and science of Obagi's Skin Health Restoration. Your doctor will diagnose your skin condition and discuss your goals. Based on your skin type and condition — as well as your lifestyle and goals — your doctor will prescribe an Obagi Skin Health Restoration protocol suited to your individual needs.

BEAUTIFUL SKIN AT ANY AGE

Beautiful skin is healthy skin. It is firm and smooth, with even skin tone and glowing color. It is free from medical problems and it is normal in function and tolerance. We are born with healthy skin, but time, the sun, and environmental assaults take their toll.

They do not have to win.

The skin is a remarkable, living organ with the incredible ability to renew itself from the inside out. All it needs is the right kind of treatment to help it remember how. And that's the treatment you'll find with Obagi.

Skin health is a revolutionary idea. Most products concentrate on the concept of skin care – treating symptoms, providing surface moisture and covering up blemishes. But the only way to reclaim the health of your skin is to reach below the surface and work at a cellular level.

OBAGI, YOU AND YOUR PHYSICIAN

The Obagi system combines specially developed products with medical supervision and counseling to treat your skin from the inside out. This program works on the surface to smooth roughness and correct damage like uneven skin tone and hyperpigmentation. It also penetrates below the surface to stimulate cell renewal, improve circulation and help restore your skin's natural moisture. The results? Beautiful, healthy skin. Treat yourself to all the benefits of skin health!

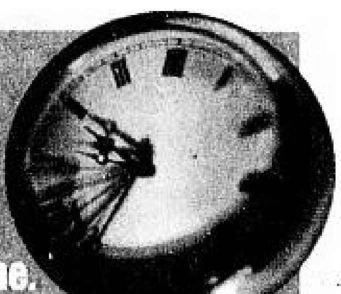
Obagi offers you an effective way to restore your skin's glowing health and beauty. With counseling from your and your Skin Health Counselor, you will be guided through a revolutionary skin care system that will help repair skin damage. This system will help to correct lines, wrinkles and other unappealing skin conditions. It will reveal your natural, glowing skin tone. It will help stimulate the cellular level to restore your skin's natural ability to renew itself. You will find that you no longer need the moisturizers and foundation you have come to rely upon to create the illusion of healthy skin.

You will have it naturally.

Restoring the health of your skin

Unlike traditional skin care products that only treat problems on the surface of your skin, the Obagi Skin Health Restoration System works at the cellular level. Under the guidance of trained physicians, the Obagi Skin Health Restoration bring back the glow and softness of healthy, younger-looking skin.

As a baby, your skin is perfect. It is supple, soft, firm and resilient. It appears to glow from within. Unfortunately, as you mature, your skin changes. It looks saggy and wrinkled with uneven color. In scientific terms: begins to break, elasticity begins to diminish, cell turnover slows down and the flow of circulation that nurtures the skin diminishes. Damage is intensified by unprotected sun exposure, environmental assaults and smoking. In real terms: you no longer have the beautiful skin you want. Instead, you have tight, dry, blotchy skin with a variety of undesirable, emotionally devastating conditions. Bottom line? It's not pretty.



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Skin Health Restoration is not a Product...
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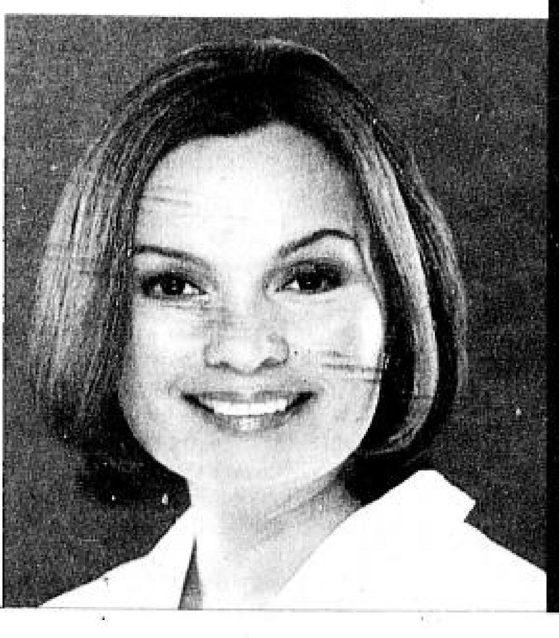
Obagi Protocol System is not just about Skin Health.

It is about time someone came up with a better way to fight the effects ofaging and restore the skin to its healthy, youthful state. The Obagi Skin Restoration Process controls the key cell types of the skin:kretinocytes, melanocytes and fibroblasts. In just 6 weeks, one will be able to achieve and attain a renewed and healthy youthful skin. The 3 Phases in the Obagi Skin Health Restoration Program are: 1. Restore Phase-out with the old 2. Tolerance Phase-in with the new 3. Corrected Phase-a new you with healthy youthful skin.



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Congratulations to the Philippine Dermatological Society on its 49th year Anniversary and
26th Annual Convention "Evidence Based Medicine: Dermatology" on November 6 & 7, 2001 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Chamber music at its best

The Prague-based Orpheus Chamber Orchestra gave a diamond-polished performace in Cebu

By Pablo A. Tariman

PEACE Philharmonic at St. de La Salle University Sports and Cultural Center, above with Msgr. Guillermo A. Gaston, PPP music director and principal conductor Josefino Chino Toledo, PPP viola soloist Gerry Varona and PPP concertmaster Mark Hamlet Mercado. At left, violinist Melissa Cipres.

THE LAST time Manila heard a first-rate chamber orchestra was when the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra debuted in Manila two years ago.

Last week, music lovers in Manila and Cebu were lucky to hear the world-acclaimed Suk Chamber Orchestra with Chinese violinist Yue Yao as soloist in Vivaldi's "Four Seasons Concerti."

We caught up with this Prague-based Czech orchestra in Cebu where it was presented by the Cebu Arts Council under special events chair Francis Onglatco, who was the one who made the initial contact with the orchestra and coordinated with Manila presenters, Czeck Ambassador Stanislav Slavicky and the CCP for the Manila performance.

At the Cebu City Sports Club where the orchestra made its Philippine debut, the Cebu Arts Council made a grand music coup of sorts.

Playing Josef Suk's "The Meditation on St. Wenceslas Choral" and Dvorak's Serenade for Strings in E Flat Major, Op. 22 in the first part of the program, the Czech orchestra showed a sterling musicianship that is astounding in many ways.

Their sound was diamond-polished and yet it was translucent and pulsating with inner warmth. The first piece radiated religious fervor and it conjured quiet dialogue with the divine. Turning on to Dvorak's Serenade for Strings in E Flat Major, Op. 22, the orchestra showed why it was one of the best chamber music groups in the world. Note for note and phrase by phrase, the orchestra not only showed startling precision but a ravishing musicality that actually demonstrated what a real cantabile is all about. They play and sing as one and you could hear music flow not just from their instruments but from their bodies as well.

CEBU Arts Council special events chair Francis Onglatco, Suk orchestra manager Ludmilla Vybiralova and impresario Dr. Vaclav Bechyne at the Cebu airport

The extra treat in both the Manila and Cebu performances of the orchestra was Vivaldi's "Four Seasons Concerti" with violin soloist Yue Yao, who was last heard with the Peace Philharmonic in the Mendelssohn concerto early this year.

A first-rate orchestra playing with a first-rate soloist is bound to create an artistic uproar of sorts and the audience response in Cebu and Manila was short of electrifying.

Yao didn't just have extraordinary focus; she had the technique to convey the musical demands of the piece. The result was a vintage baroque concerto with sparks flying all over the place. Her blending with this super chamber orchestra was proof enough that she had nothing to fear from the group in terms of her own reservoir of technique and musicianship. From the "Spring" and on to "Summer," "Autumn" and "Winter" concertos, Yao and the Suk orchestra gave Manilans and Cebuanos a glimpse into the best of what this piece could be. In Manila, Yao was swamped with autograph hunters during the intermission.

For encore, Yao dedicated the second movement of the "Winter" concerto and a section of the "Summer" concerto to the late Isaac Stern who was her mentor and whose priceless violin she now has.

The Suk orchestra made one more command performance for selected guests at the Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort under the auspices of hotel manager Ben Bousnina. The short pieces by Liszt ("The Joy of Love" with Yue Yao as soloist), Bach and Bartok all the more highlighted the fact that even simple pieces become priceless gems in the hands of these first-rate chamber musicians.

Yes, the Czech Embassy under Ambassador Slavicky and the CCP made the Manila performance possible but it was Cebu Arts Council Francis Onglatco who made the initial negotiation, including transport air arrangements. The first historic performance of a Czech orchestra in the Philippines would not have been possible without the perseverance of Onglatco and some help from Yao herself.

VIOLIN soloist Yue Yao with the Suk Chamber Orchestra.

Potential stars

TWO potential star soloists emerged from the recently concluded chamber music series of the Peace Philharmonic at the Marriott Hotel last week. Even as a strong string section emerged in Grieg's "Holberg Suite" and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, the rank-and-file of the PPP musicians are fast developing a strong instinct for chamber music.

But the bigger revelation was how two young soloists fared in Mozart's "Sinfonia Concertante for Violin" and "Viola" featuring young violinist Brian Cimafranca and viola soloist Gerry Varona. The two had rapport with the chamber orchestra and surprised everyone in their respective cadenzas. Even more revealing was their sound and clean intonation and amazing musicality to boot.

The PPP third concert series—which unfolded in Cebu Plaza Grand Lobby last week—moved on to Bacolod City a day. They were greeted by extra responsive audiences in Negros with two performances at the University of St. La Salle Gym and the Bacolod Convention Plaza with Msgr. Guillermo Gaston as overall concert coordinator.

"You've done a great job," violinist Gilopez Kabayao told PPP conductor Chino Toledo after a performance at the University of St. La Salle.

"Definitely, this young orchestra is worth supporting and encouraging," said NCCA liaison officer for the Visayas Mylene Gamboa after a performance at the Bacolod Convention Plaza. "They were just great and so were their viola soloist Gerry Varona. They played as one and their performances can certainly be compared to professionals," she added.

PPP conductor Toledo is also all praises for the young viola soloist. "Gerry Varona will go far," Toledo told the INQUIRER. "His playing is clean and yet very musical but the biggest surprise is that he is a good performer as well. I think what he deserves now is a scholarship abroad, preferably from the Juilliard School in New York. He has an innate musical talent that enables him to understand what he is doing musically. The whole orchestra is I think fast maturing. You ask them what you want as a conductor and their musical response is much faster now."

Bacolod Rotarian Sonny Elegado (a father of a pianist and choral conductor Chipay Elegado) and wife Suzie were all praises for the young orchestra. "They were certainly good and they deserve that good audience attendance," the couple said.

Here and there

STAGE and film actor Nanding Josef, also director of the Philippine High School for the Arts, has been appointed new artistic director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

* * *

After the recital of Rachelle Gerodias, the next singer not to be missed in the MCO series is tenor Gary del Rosario due at the Francisco Santiago Hall on Nov. 23, 7 p.m., and in Cebu City under the auspices of the Cebu Arts Council on Nov. 29. Guest artist is soprano Alegria Ferrer. (For tickets, call 818-1403.) Gary just sang the role of Otello in Cleveland using the costume originally used by tenor Jon Vickers for the same role. Vickers was Nelly Miricioiu's Canio when the latter debuted as Nedda in Covent Garden in the '80s.

* * *

Condolence to the family of painter Perdigon Vocalan who passed away last week. I remember that I mounted a concert for Artists for the Environment in one street in Binangonan through his help and the artists had a hearty meal in his restaurant, "Balao-Balao."

* * *

Condolence to the family of stage and film actor Ray Ventura who passed away on Oct. 24. Raven, as he was known to friends, also loved music and in the mid-'80s, we would watch "Swan Lake" and "Giselle" together and drink the night away to our favorite Odette-Odile (we were fans of Yoko Morishita and Maniya Barredo). He lived and breathed theater as well as music, ballet and opera. It was a privilege to be part of this actors' circle that included Raven, Pen Medina, Ronnie Lazaro, Joel Torre, Sherry Lara and Spanky Manikan. I last saw this group in the play called "Hiblang Abo" by Rene Villanueva and while the individual performances and the direction were excellent, I found it a very depressing play even as it used the second movement of the E Minor Chopin concerto. The last time I shared a box at the CCP with Raven, he was moist-eyed as he heard his violinist-son, IR, perform and share the stage with the likes of Chino Bolipata and Rowena Arrieta.

* * *

Choral conductor Jonathan Velasco, organist Armando Salarza, marimba player Johnny Yu and pianist Patricia Lim will participate in the grand centennial choral festival on Nov. 17, 6 p.m., at the St. Stephen's Parish main sanctuary at 1276 Masangkay St., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Participating are six choral groups coming from the Episcopal community. Main highlight is the rendition of selected works by Handel, John Rutter and National Artist for Music Lucrecia Kasilag and with accompaniments from the St. Stephen's pipe organ. The concert is part of the celebration of the Episcopal Centennial in the Philippines and the pearl anniversary of its central diocese. Call 412-8561.

* * *

Prague is such a musical city that even the first performance of Mozart's "Requiem" was held in this city and not in the composer's native Austria. Initially, only two Filipinos made their first Prague connections: Otoniel Gonzaga who sung the title role of Otello in Prague Opera, and Cecile Licad who was soloist of the Prague Chamber Orchestra in Liszt's "Malediction." Baritone Jonathan Zaens was chosen to sing the role of Leporello in the Prague State Opera production of "Don Giovanni" and its equivalent part in the opera "Pasquariello" by Gazzaniga. "This is one of my dream roles," Zaens told the INQUIRER during the weekend. Zaens will sing the part on its premiere night on Dec. 13. The performances will be held until June 2002.

STAGE and film actor Ray Ventura as Elias in Homer Fleras' "Kanser"

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More new titles from UP Press

AFTER LAUNCHING 26 titles at the Philippine Bookfair last September, the UP Press has launched 18 more titles.

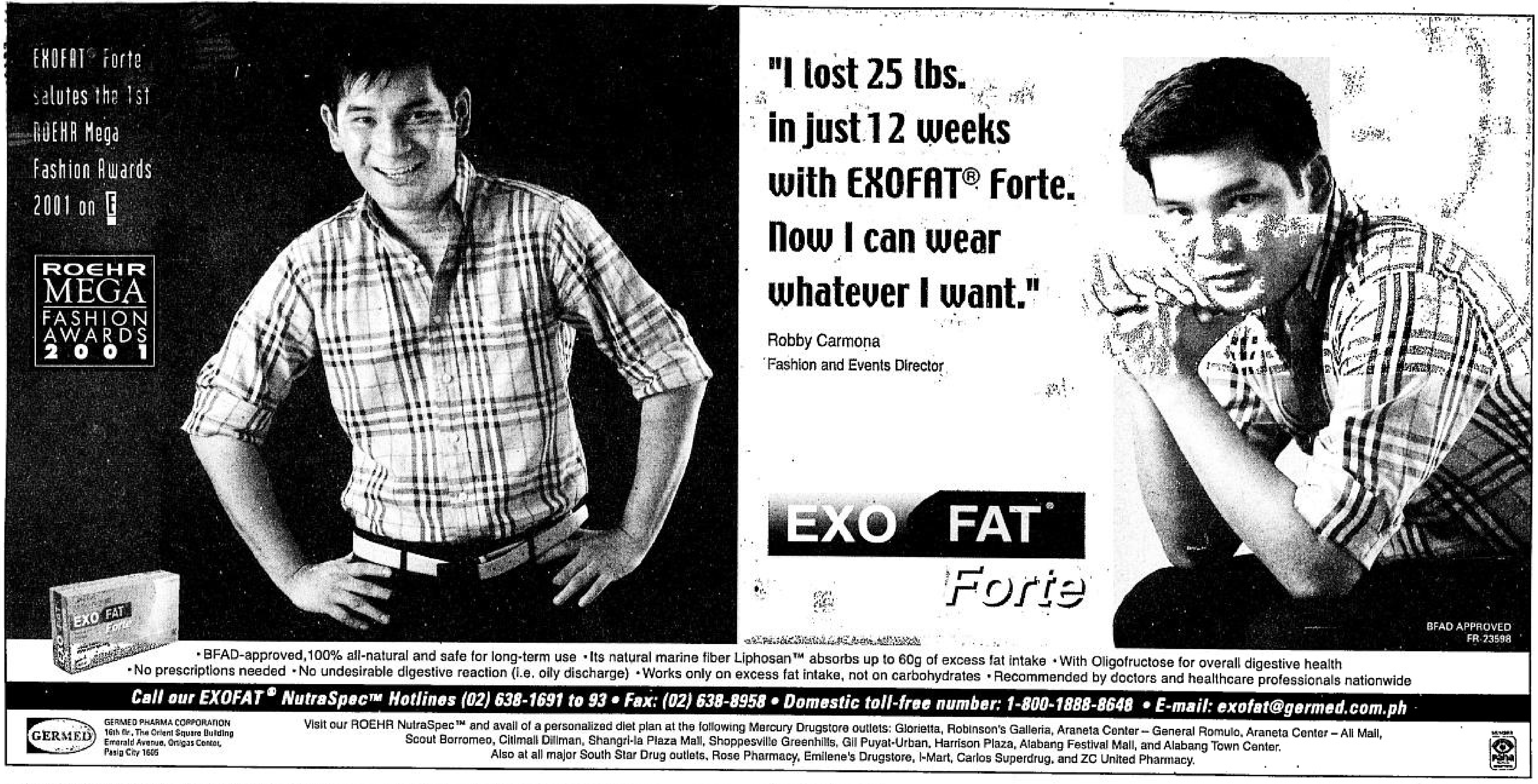
The "2001 Mega Book Launch (Part 2)" features 11 UP Press titles just released. These include the 2001 editions of three landmark volumes on Philippine folklore, "The Folktales" and "The Myths" by Damiana L. Eugenio, and "A Study of Philippine Games" by Mellie Leandicho Lopez; an award-winning novel by master Tagalog fictionist Lazaro Francisco, "Singsing na Pangkasal"; and a collection of critical essays by Elmer A. Ordonez, "Emergent Literature: Essays on Philippine Writings."

Also launched were "Reflections on Sociology and Philippine Society" by Randy David, "Protest/Revolutionary Art in the Philippines 1970-1990" by Alice G. Guillermo, "Knife's Edge: Selected Essays" by Edel E. Garcellano, "The Philippine Economy: Alternatives for the 21st Century" edited by Dante B. Canlas and Shigeaki Fujisaki, "Power in the Village: Agrarian Reform, Rural Politics, Institutional Change and Globalization" edited by Horacio R. Morales Jr. et al, (copublished with the Project Development Institute), and "Filipino Stories for Filipino Children: An Anthology" edited by Eleanor Eme Hermosa.

Seven other UP Press titles due for release by the end of year will also be launched. These are "The Fateful Years: Japan 's Adventure in the Philippines, 1941-1945 Volume II" (2001 edition) by Teodoro Agoncillo, "Bukod na Bukod: Piling Sanaysay ni Isagani Cruz" edited by David Jonathan Bayot, "A Book of Dreams" by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, "Paghuhunos" by Ellen L. Sicat, "A Century of Veterinary Medicine in the Philippines 1898-1998" edited by Mauro F. Manuel et al., "Trees, Palms and Bamboos of the University of the Philippines Diliman" (copublished with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Development) by Emiliano D. Sotalbo and Vicente G. Sinco) and "In Memoriam" edited by Amelia Lapena Bonifacio.

The launching marked the end of the term as UP Press director of Prof. Laura L. Samson. Serving the UP Press from August 1994 to October 2001, Professor Samson conceptualized and led the completion of the university's most ambitious publishing project ever, the "100-Book Project." Under her term, from 1995-2001, the UP Press published a total of 239 titles or an average of about 34 titles a year. This represents 60 percent of the total number of books published by the Press over the past 36 years.

In 1997, the UP Press won the Publisher of the Year award. Sixty-five of the 189 titles published by the UP Press from 1995-2000 were nominated for the National Book Awards: 22 won in various categories. Fourteen other titles received awards from the National Academy of Science and Technology and the Gawad Chanselor.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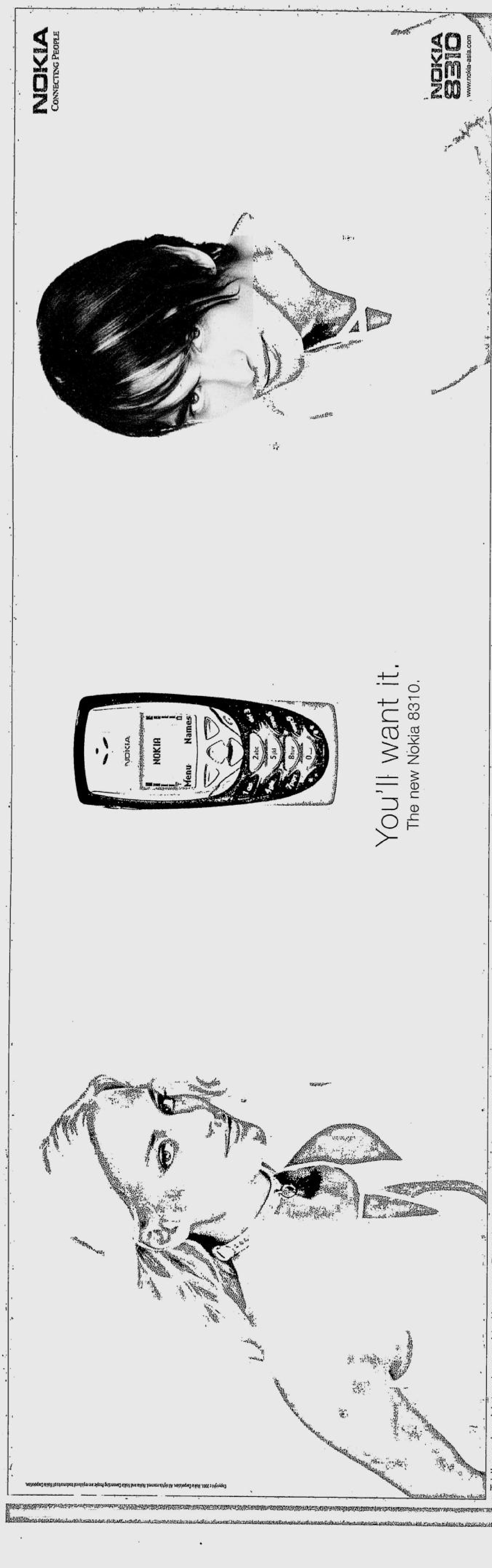

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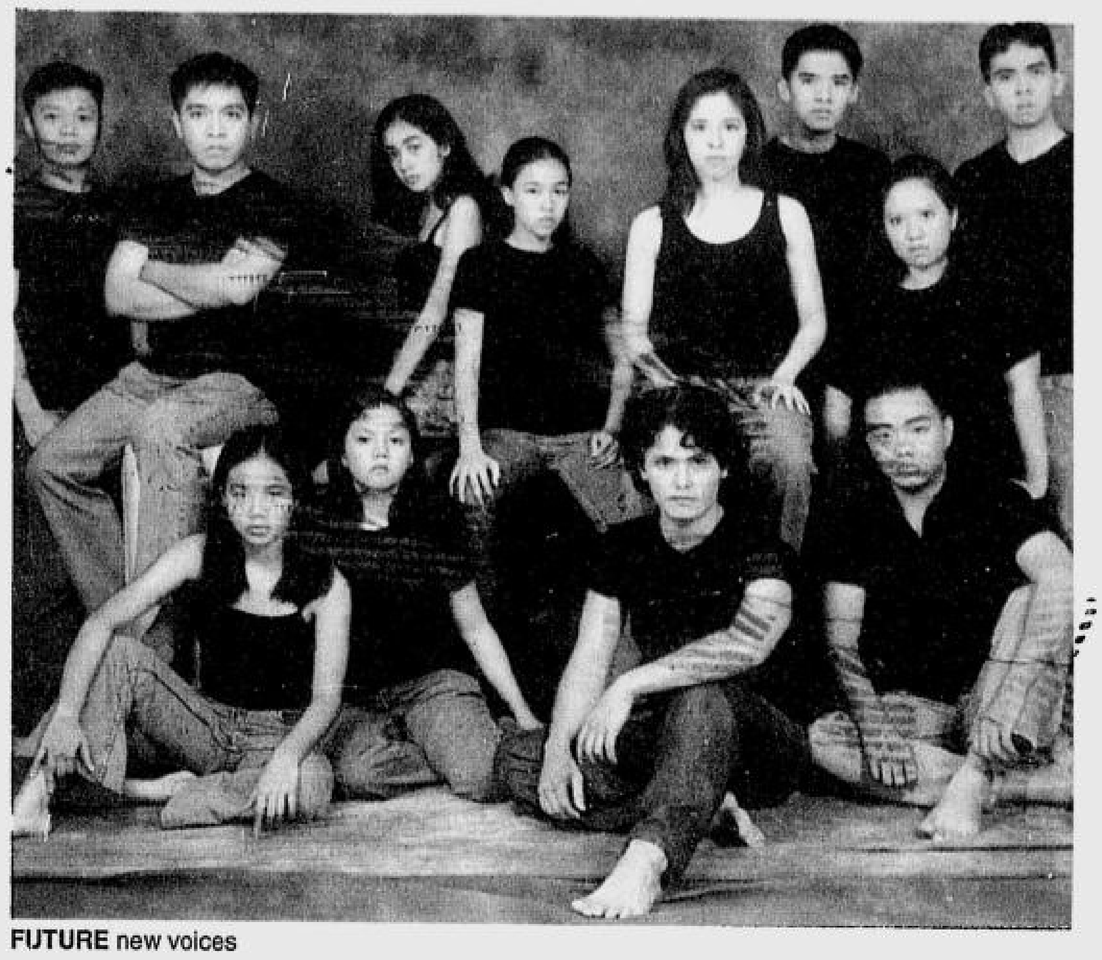

FUTURE new voices

New Voice Company's revolution of sorts

(From page F1)

As in any other theater company, the original NVC pool of talents grew from the new members who signed on after their first summer workshops. Not a few were students and young professionals who were dazzled by the stage productions they watched in NVC as well as other groups and ventured to see if they could pursue some kind of career or vocation in it. Soon enough, Wilson and her associate artistic directors, Andrew Vergara and Rito Asilo, threw them head first into the swirling tides of the craft. Workshops in voice, acting and directing conducted by Wilson's notable colleagues, like Jose Estrella of Dulaang UP, pushed each member to his or her limit.

Then there were the productions. The NVC management saw to it that each member was actively involved—from doing onstage walk-on roles to coordinating the frenzy backstage known as stage management.

Many of the members cut their professional acting teeth on corporate shows, concerts and mall events. The more talented ones were given plum lines in "Purpose Rose," last year's special V-day presentation of "TVM."

Combination

These days, it helps that NVC has its own three-story building in Makati. The many rooms allow for expansive space as well as privacy for the workshops, brainstorming and the rehearsals. Only a few years ago, the actors had to content themselves with a makeshift rehearsal hall in the garage of the Wilsons' Paco residence. "They'd be there delivering their lines while passers-by and people from the other houses peeked in. Now, that's dedication," Wilson says with tongue not quite in cheek.

A look at the program shows that the emerging ensemble is still substantially supported by the material. "Revolutionary Hearts" is a combination of theater and concert featuring familiar beloved Broadway and Filipino ditties, as opposed to tunes that might have been written as tributes to Karl Marx. The numbers include "Do You Hear the People Sing?" (from "Les Miserables"), "Magsimula Ka," "Day by Day" ("Godspell"), "I Believe," "Somewhere" and Ryan Cayabyab's "Matimyas."

According to Wilson, though, these musical numbers will be woven by a thematic outline—a social and musical commentary. Though the song numbers may evoke images of barricades in France or clowns dabbling in Holy Writ, "Revolutionary Hearts" will use music, dance, monologues and poetry to fashion its message within a very Filipino framework that speaks on contemporary realities.

"... Poverty. Violence against women. Discrimination. Commodification of women and children. Imperialism," Wilson says of the subjects close to her heart. "What makes the concert unique is that these realizations will be brought to life through the voices of young Filipinos and through their own perspectives. They will speak about their social awakening, feelings, fears and aspirations for their country and fellow Filipinos."

Wilson adds that, hopefully, the idealism and zeal of the more socially involved youth of today can remove some of the apathy that has crept in and stopped society from making things better.

"These guys are the future artists. They will be running companies and shows. Their voices will be heard and seen one of these days."

Until then, for a sneak preview, catch "Revolutionary Hearts" on Nov. 9 and 10, 9 p.m., at the Republic of Malate.

Call 896-5497/6695

Book pays tribute to Maningning Miclat

ANVIL Publishing Inc. recently released a book of poems and paintings, elegies, essays and letters called "Beauty for Ashes: Remembering Maningning." The book was the collaborative project of the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation Inc. (MMAFI), Anvil and the friends and family of Maningning C. Miclat, multiawarded artist, trilingual poet and creative writer, translator and teacher.

beauty for ashes
remembering

Last Sept. 29, also the first anniversary of Miclat's tragic death, the book was launched at the UP Asian Center. One of the best-attended literary events of this year, it gathered together poets, writers, visual artists, professors and luminaries like PCGG Commissioner Haydee Yorac, Kalsa's Teresita Ang-See, TV commentator and professor Randy David, National Artist Napoleon Abueva, sculptor Jerry Araos, poet and columnist Krip Yuson, ALIWW's Edna Z. Manlapaz, UP president Francisco Nemenzo and chancellor Emerlinda Roman, CCP's Hermie Beltran and Ed Cabagnot, UP Creative Writing Center's Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo and Jimmy Abad, professors SV and Nieves Epistola, MMAFI chair Meynard Halili, artist Aba Dalena, UP Asian Center's Armando Malay Jr., performance artist Bingbing Veloso, Anvil's Karina Bolasco and singer Susan Fernandez.

"Beauty for Ashes" is an exquisite book that compiles the "deep meditations" and "poetic outpourings of grief and affection" for Miclat of 34 notable and promising visual and literary artists. Among them are Teo T. Antonio, Rebecca T. Anonuevo, Mesandel Virtusio Arguelles, Gerardo Banzon, Romulo P. Baquiran Jr., Jose Wendell P. Capili, Michael M. Coroza, Delia C. Cruz, Genaro R. Gojo Cruz, Carlomar Arcangel Daoana, Ruel S. de Vera, Teddy G. Espela, Marjorie M. Evasco, J. Neil C. Garcia, Raymund Magno Garlitos, Nerissa del Carmen Guevarra, Kris Lacaba, Domingo G. Landicho, Marra PL. Lanot, Vivian N. Limpin, Babeth Lalorga, Shirley O. Lua, Rogelio G. Mangahas, Dan McConvillo, Mario Ignacio Miclat, Vim Nadera, Danton Remoto, Ajit Singh Rye, Aida F. Santos, Benilda S. Santos, Luna Sicat, Roli G. Talampas, John Iremil E. Teodoro and Delfin L. Tolentino Jr.

Compiled and edited by Mario Ignacio Miclat and Romulo Baquiran Jr., the book is available in a collector's edition, whose sales will fund the projects of the MMAFI, which has vowed to support young artists and poets 28 years old and below. Call Alma C. Miclat at 816-7190 or e-mail acmiclat@dcdc.com.ph. Softbound copies are available at National Bookstore and Powerbooks.